# Daily Report

# Latin America

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*FBIS-LAT-89-243* *20 December 1989*

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## UN Contacts U.S., USSR, Cuba on Peace Plan

*PA1912021989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 17 Dec 89*

[Text] San Jose, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has begun contacts with Soviet Union, the United States, and Cuba to get their cooperation in achieving peace in Central America, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has announced in San Jose. Arias said the first contacts have been made at the ambassadorial level at the United Nations, but contacts could be made by the foreign ministers of those countries or "higher up" if necessary.

The five Central American presidents requested Perez' participation during the meeting they held in San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica. The presidents agreed at that summit to ask the United Nations secretary general to establish the necessary contacts to "involve states with more interests in the region more directly in the peace efforts."

Arias confirmed Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, with whom he met on Saturday, 16 December, will meet in Caracas on Wednesday, 20 December, with a delegation of El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). It was announced that Perez intends to convince them to return to the negotiation table and resume the dialogue with the Alfredo Cristiani government.

Other sources indicated the FMLN envoys may stop in Costa Rica on their return from Venezuela and meet with President Arias, although the president declined to comment on this report.

Arias met on 16 December with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who visited him after a 4-day fact-finding and observation mission to Nicaragua regarding the electoral campaign that will conclude with the 25 February 1990 elections in that country.

Carter told Arias "our views are very strict," because that country's electoral system "is almost perfect," while the electoral mechanisms of other countries are still flawed. Carter warned in San Jose that if at any moment he should find "any irregularity" he will denounce it, just as he did in May in Panama when the regime canceled the elections that the opposition reportedly won.

## Countries View International Drug Court Proposal

*FL1812134789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 17 Dec 89*

[Text] New York, Dec 17, CANA—China is taking a wait-and-see attitude to Trinidad and Tobago's proposal for an international drug court. At the same time, Egypt wants to see the recently approved Viennna Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotics to be given a chance to work before any steps are taken to create the proposed court.

However, both the Bahamas and Antigua are backing their Caribbean Community [Caricom] colleague's proposal and believe the UN should push ahead with the proposal. When the UN General Assembly's 6th Committee continued its consideration of the suggestion for the criminal tribunal, Teng Chengyuan, a diplomat from China, said Trinidad and Tobago's idea was "another demonstration that the international community is increasingly concerned with the international crimes of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs."

In addition, it indicated that there was a strong desire to take all practical international measures to mete out strong punishment to traffickers, the China official added. However, while the court would theoretically enhance the international criminal justice system, his country was maintaining a flexible attitude to the Trinidad and Tobago suggestion, meaning it would wait and see what other nations had to say about it before it acted.

Egypt's attitude was somewhat different. Its representative on the committee, Waguih Hanafi, didn't believe the UN should take any steps now to create the court because several studies had already failed to come up with clear cut answers on its effectiveness. On top of that, he went on, the International Law Commission viewed the idea as a controversial one. That was why his country wanted the Vienna Covention which has not yet become effective to be given a chance to work before any new judicial moves were taken to deal with the problem.

He was quick to point out that Egypt would support a study of the issue because such an examination would look into both the court's negative and the positive features and its findings would help governments make up their minds. Although Pakistan didn't throw cold water over the proposal, its official Dorab Patel, suggested that a reduction in demand by the Western countries might be a more effective approach. Patel described the cutting in the demand for narcotics as the most important route to defeat drug traffickers, thus making it essential for consumer nations—the Western states—to follow in the footsteps of Third World countries by acting swiftly to root out the drug menace at all cost. The Bahamas couldn't have disagreed more with both Egypt and Pakistan.

James Moultrie, the Bahamas UN ambassador, asserted that what was really needed was the political will to act effectively by setting up the court because there were no insurmountable obstacles to its creation. He contended that the court could have jurisdiction over a limited list of international crimes and therefore would not impinge upon the sovereignty of various countries.

Echoing a somewhat similar sentiment was Antigua's UN Ambassador Lionel Hurst who said that the need for a court was clearly established. The necessity for it, he stated, was based on the grave consequences of powerful countries trying to extend the jurisdiction of their own courts into other sovereign nations. Secondly, declared Hurst, the establishment of the court would hold large and small nations alike to identical principles of law, and order would prevail.

### Group of Eight Ministers To Meet on Panama Issue

*PA2012145389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1413 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Bogota, 20 Dec (EFE)—A Colombian Foreign Ministry source told EFE today that the Foreign Ministers of the Group of Eight will meet here in the next few hours after being convoked by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes.

The Group of Eight is made up of Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, Brasil, Mexico and Venezuela. Panama was excluded temporarily last year because of its domestic problems.

Londono has been at his office since 0300 and has been in constant contact with international organizations.

### Reportage on Isla Santa Cruz Andean Pact Summit

#### Strategic Integration Plan Approved

*PA1912001089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2308 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Text] Isla Santa Cruz, 18 Dec (DPA)—The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela today approved a strategically designed plan for the Andean Pact to make the integration process more pragmatic.

The plan establishes specific mechanisms and deadlines "to expedite and strengthen" the Andean process, defined by the five presidents as "an unavoidable historical need of the peoples of the subregion."

The plan with a strategic design is the first tangible resolution issued by the Andean summit, held aboard a yacht that has been sailing since on 17 December among the Galapagos Islands, 1,000 km off the South American coasts.

It has been announced that Presidents Jaime Paz, Virgilio Barco, Rodrigo Borja, Alan Garcia, and Carlos Andres Perez will also issue a political joint statement at the end of the talks which are being held amid strict secrecy "without telex, telephone, or newsmen," as the official report said.

The presidents are also reviewing the progress of the integration process in 1989 following their decision early this year to "relaunch" the Andean Pact—which was established in 1969—to overcome the stagnation of the last decade.

#### Colombia's Antidrug Fight Lauded

*PA1912034589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0036 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Isla Santa Cruz, Ecuador, 18 Dec (DPA)—The Andean Pact member countries today expressed their "broad and firm" support to Colombia on its war against the drug trafficking which they characterized as "a repulsive crime against mankind deserving a most severe repudiation."

However, Colombian President Virgilio Barco discounted the possibility that the five Andean countries will establish a plan or joint mechanism to fight drugs. "We are in control of the situation," he said.

In addition, Barco confirmed the participation of U.S. President George Bush in the summit on drugs scheduled for 14 February, which will also be attended by the Bolivian and Peruvian presidents.

The Andean presidents, who have been meeting since the afternon of 17 December aboard a yacht that has been sailing around the Galapagos Islands, 1,000 km off the South American coasts, praised "the bravery and courage with which all Colombia is waging its war on drug trafficking." They said the drug mafias "deserve no other response but war."

The possible inclusion of drug trafficking in the final declaration of the five presidents has not been ruled out. The declaration will be signed on this island, one of the few inhabited islands in this Ecuadoran archipelago.

#### Pact Relaunching Announced

*PA1912033689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0217 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Report by Sixto Martinez]

[Text] Puerto Ayora (Galapagos Islands, Ecuador), 18 Dec (EFE)—The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela today announced the relaunching of the Andean Pact and have committed themselves to accelerating the process of integration of the area and to match their policies against drug trafficking.

During a joint news conference held with his colleagues Jaime Paz Zamora from Bolivia, Virgilio Barco from Colombia, Rodrigo Borja from Ecuador, and Alan Garcia from Peru Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said: "Now we are really implementing the Andean Pact buried for 2 decades between rhetoric and bureaucracy."

In this city of 5,000 inhabitants located 1,000 km from the coast of South America, and following 2 days of meetings on board the "Guayas," the Ecuadoran Navy training vessel, the heads of state signed the "Andean Cooperation, Security, and Peace Agreement."

Likewise, they approved the strategic plan for orientation of the Andean Pact and a series of guidelines for its reactivation with progressive customs and tariff liberation among the countries.

In the document, the presidents also express their decision to "adopt actions that will facilitate the creation of a climate of understanding and trust that will allow strengthening the integration."

They also agreed to increase political, economic, and military cooperation among the five states and to eradicate the illegal coca plantations.

Bolivia and Peru are the main producers of coca, the plant from which cocaine is extracted.

However, the presidents warned about "the principle of group responsibility" in the international struggle against drug trafficking.

The presidents agreed to point out in their public statements that the industrialized nations, especially drug consuming nations, must increase their efforts to control the demand.

In an attached document, the presidents "very happily" welcomed the return of democracy in Chile and offered to work together with that country "in building a more solid and integrated Latin America."

Chile was founder of the Andean Pact in 1969 and withdrew in 1976 because it disagreed with the treatment given in the region to foreign capital.

President Perez said that "over the past 20 years, the Andean Pact has been bogged down with integrationist rhetoric," but now "we have set specific deadlines and we shortened the deadlines we had set earlier" to make progress in the process of integration.

Perez recalled that the Andean Pact "is not an end in itself since we are looking forward to the integration of Latin America."

In the economic field, the presidents agreed to increase the development funds, create a rural development fund, and facilitate trade and communications among the five countries.

As proof of their political will, the presidents decided to meet again in 6 months in Lima to personally supervise the achievements made and establish new goals.

The process of relaunching the Andean Pact began in February in Caracas, on the occasion of Perez' swearing in, and in May in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, where "summits" like the one held here today were held.

Concerning the standstill experienced by the subregional agreement, Peruvian President Alan Garcia said that "every institution has a tendency to become bureaucratic; it has a tendency to fill itself with employees and become technocratic."

Rodrigo Borja and Jaime Paz Zamora coincided in stating that the Andean Pact has taken "a turn" and insisted that programs that will favor the poorer sectors will be carried out as part of payment of a "social debt."

Paz Zamora added that "the Cartagena Agreement gave the pact the economic and philosophical option is was missing."

According to Alan Garcia, "integration and democracy are inseparable in Latin America."

Perez said that the current Latin American crisis has made the need for integration more evident.

In an informal environment that contrasted with the heavy security measures adopted yesterday at the time of arrival of the presidents, the documents were signed in the Puerto Ayora Municipality on the island of Santa Cruz. After the signing, the presidents walked along the streets of the town where they were applauded by the residents.

Prior to the signing, the presidents visited the "Charles Darwin" scientific station located near the city. Here they saw 100-year-old turtles that weigh up to 300 kg.

On board the "Guayas" training vessels, the presidents went from Puerto Ayora to Baltra Island from where they traveled to Guayaquil to return to their respective countries today.

Of the five presidents, Barco's and Garcia's respective terms in office will end next year.

### Presidents Urge End to Hostilities

*PA1912035489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0252 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Puerto Ayora, (Galapagos Islands, Ecuador), 18 Dec (EFE)—The Andean Pact presidents today urged an immediate end to weapons being sent to the area and the end of hostilities in Central America. They also expressed their satisfaction over the resumption of talks among the heads of state in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Presidents Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Rodrigo Borja of Ecuador, Alan Garcia of Peru, and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela called on the parties involved in the conflict "to cooperate to achieve peace."

In the same resolution the Andean presidents expressed their "serious concern for the recent incidents in Panama."

Even though they stressed their respect for the principle of nonintervention, the presidents said that "respect for the right of the Panamanian people requires the implementation of democracy and the real possibility of people freely expressing their sovereign will."

Paz Zamora, Barco Vargas, Borja, Garcia, and Perez, today, here, 1,000 km from the western coast of Ecuador, concluded a 2-day "summit" during which they sought they reactivation of the Andean Pact.

### Guidelines for Future Action Set

*PA1912045689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0257 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Puerto Ayora (Galapagos Islands, Ecuador), 18 Dec (EFE)—In a meeting today in the Ecuadoran Galapagos Archipelago, the presidents of the five Andean Pact countries today established a number of guidelines for promoting integration in the area.

The guidelines are:

National Development Plans: The presidents decided to make variable integration a strategic goal of their countries and ordered their planning organizations to exchange information concerning this issue.

Strengthening of the Andean Integration System: They will review organizations and institutions and study changes that might be necessary for those organizations to respond adequately to the needs of the integration process.

Creation of an Andean Rural Development Fund: This project was assigned to the Andean Development Fund (CAF). The new fund will have its own accounting system and will enjoy the exemptions granted to the CAF.

Relations with the EC: The presidents believe it would be advantageous for a meeting of EC and Andean Pact foreign ministers to be held in 1990.

Meeting of Subregional Energy and Mines Ministers: The goal is to expand the possibilities of cooperation, technological complementation, and the prommotion of capital goods and oil equipment.

Andean Development Corporation: The plan is to increase its capital to $2 billion, beginning in 1992, with investments in the form of bonds and through the participation of countries outside the region.

Science and Technology: They will examine proposals from communities and public and private scientific institutions to establish priority community projects.

Simon Rodriguez Agreement: They will support the socio-labor subregional integration agreement.

Andean Business School: They will reopen it in Trujillo (Peru) and invite Andean business institutions to seek appropriate means of financing.

Andean Communications Program: Initiation of a telecommunications program to take advantage of each country's capabilities until the Andean "Simon Bolivar" satellite, scheduled to be launched in 1993, begins operating.

Implementation of these projects will be the responsibility of the Andean Council, made up of the foreign ministers of the five countries.

### ONUCA Planning To Establish Liaison Offices

*PA1912011689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0252 GMT 12 Dec 89*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) communique reported that this peace force has begun moving to the rest of the countries in the area.

With the purpose of establishing liaison offices, Spanish Colonel Manuel Maldonado traveled to Nicaragua, UK Colonel J.B. Holley to El Salvador, Irish Colonel J.C. Purcell to Costa Rica, and Venezuelan Colonel Wellman Alcala to Guatemala.

According to the communique signed by the ONUCA chief, Spanish General Agustin Quesada, the officers are to make the necessary contacts for establishing offices of the United Nations' mission.

ONUCA's plan is to have offices at the capitals of the five Central American countries and to establish observation posts at the "hot" border areas between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

ONUCA will deploy a contingent of 625 members in total—260 will be military observers—in Central America.

There are 69 peace forces members—military and civilian—in Honduras at present and they are from Spain, Ireland, FGR, Colombia, Venezuela, and Canada.

ONUCA spokesman Mario Zamorano told ACAN-EFE that "we do not plan to send members to the Honduras, Nicaragua, or El Salvador borders at present."

## Cuba

### Reportage on U.S. Military Action in Panama

#### Bush Speech on Panama Noted

*FL2012151089 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1426 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is no fighting now in the center of Panama City. Only sporadic shooting is occurring on the outskirts of the city. The situation in the capital is tense. The Panamanian Defense Forces and the people themselves have detained this U.S. attack. That is, of course, as of this moment because remember, U.S. President George Bush announced from coast-to-coast this morning on ABC television network that new troops will be sent to Panama, including military planes. The Palmerola base in Honduras has also been put on alert. It is estimated that the United States has close to 35,000 men prepared for battle. What will the United States do? Only the U.S. President himself knows and it continues to be a secret. [passage omitted]

#### Canal Closure Noted

*FL2012162189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1520 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] For the first time in its 75 years of existence, the Panama Canal was closed today as a result of the U.S. military invasion of Panama. The Panama Canal Commission itself confirmed the closing of the waterway to a U.S. television station. The closing of the Panama Canal will have a severe affect on world trade.

PRENSA LATINA also reports that the former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, said the invasion of Panama is a political error. Although White expressed his inevitable support for President Bush's decision, he said that it will be very difficult for the White House to make today's events in Panama seem like a victory. [passage omitted]

#### Commentary Criticizes U.S. Attack

*FL2012134589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Dec 89*

["Our Opinion" commentary; read by Rafael Berastegui]

[Text] A few days after the meeting held in waters near the island of Malta between George Bush and top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which was said to have ended the cold war, the United States has just placed Central America in an extremely tense situation with its attack on the Republic of Panama.

The classic excuse used, to protect U.S. lives and to reestablish democracy and normalcy, evokes the what was known as the big stick policy, when the new U.S. imperialism felt it had the complete right to directly interfere in the matters of its neighboring countries. At the beginning of the century, President Theodore Roosevelt recommended carrying a big stick. He boasted that he had simply taken Panama for the United States. Since then, there were new treatment policies. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy tried to hide the stick and show the carrot to Latin American countries.

The invasion of Grenada, launched by Ronald Reagan in 1983, took advantage of dissension between revolutinaries to close that period, but his action is being reaffirmed and aggravated today by U.S. troops that are massacring the Panamanian people at this time.

Nicaragua has proposed convening the UN Security Council, and the Soviet Union has strongly condemned President George Bush's action. International public opinion is mobilized. Its duty is to stop the attack and, above all, alert the world.

The Panamanian case is an example. What kind of international detente precedes the armed intervention of the main imperialist power against a developing country? When will our peoples really be able to bury the ghost of the big stick policy? The Panamanians and their leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega are showing the path to follow at this time.

#### Military Buildup Confirmed

*PA2012030189 Havana International Service in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Dec 89*

[Text] News media have confirmed that a large-scale deployment of helicopter gunships is under way today at the U.S. Southern Command's Howard Air Force Base on the banks of the Panama Canal, while vehicles mounted with heavy artillery have been pointed at people traveling through the area close to the U.S. Air Force installation.

Fort Clayton, site of the U.S. Army headquarters, is overflowing with military personnel in field uniforms and combat gear. PRENSA LATINA reporters have confirmed that over 50 armored personnel carriers have been transferred to that area.

In a radio program in the Panamanian capital, Baltazar Aizpurua, secretary general of the Journalists Union of Panama criticized U.S. threats to invade Panama. Aizpurua also reported the arrest of 350 U.S. soldiers from various services who have refused to obey orders to participate in the psychological warfare against the isthmian nation.

#### Havana Calls on Region To Stop U.S.

*FL1912195689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The growing hostility of the United States against Panama has brought relations between the two countries to a point of unprecedented tension. In less than 24 hours, U.S. soldiers, acting outside the perimeter of the canal, have attacked Panamanian military members and civilians on two occasions.

In the first incident, U.S. soldiers shot one of the main posts of the central quarters of the Panama Defense Forces. In the second incident, a Panamanian soldier was shot. As a result of these aggressions, two Panamanian soldiers and two civilians have been injured, including a 1-year-old child.

The Pentagon said that a U.S. officer, who was not identified, died in the post incident. In both cases, the Pentagon held the Panamanian forces responsible for the incidents.

There is no doubt that something is cooking between the White House, the Pentagon, the CIA, and the U.S. Southern Command quartered in the Canal Zone. These acts of aggression are not coincidental. It is our understanding that a plan of provocations is being implemented which could very well be the prelude to direct military intervention. It is ironic that the United States accused Panama of these incidents. Even the biggest idiot would not believe such a story. Panama is the country that is the least interested in inciting tension with the United States. What would be the purpose? What sense would it make?

Bush yesterday virtually threatened direct military intervention against the isthmian nation. Speaking through his spokesman, the U.S. leader said he does not rule out the possibility of using other options against Panama, aside from political and economic measures. What else could these options be except military options?

Ignoring other discussions, Latin America should take a position against the crime being planned against the isthmian nation. Either the United States is stopped or we will play the sad role of something to be stepped on by Washington.

### Caimanera Residents Protest 'Attack' on Panama

*FL2012163589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1520 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Since early this morning, the people of Caimanera Municipality in Guantanamo have taken to the streets to repudiate the U.S. attack against Panama. Labor groups, students, officers, soldiers, housewives, and the people in general are holding spontaneous rallies of condemnation against the arrogance of the Yankee imperialists.

The people of Caimanera recall that on 7 December, while tribute was being paid to internationalists who fell in African territories, U.S. soldiers shot at Cuban positions stationed at the border of the U.S. naval base. During their demonstrations in Caimanera, the people reaffirmed their willingness to defend the people of Panama.

### Shooting Incident in Panama Reported

*FL1912160189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1131 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Report by Daniel Torres on "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has called the death of a U.S. officer in Panama an atrocity. Although he has not announced any immediate act of reprisal, he did say that a number of options were being studied and he did not rule out armed intervention. Bush's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, also described the state of war declared by General Manuel Antonio Noriega in his role as new head of government as very dangerous.

I would like to tell the best-informed audience of "Haciendo Radio" that since yesterday, the United States has been dislocating [as heard] information on events in Panama, trying to make it seem like Panama is the one that has attacked the United States in an incident—which you are aware of because you heard it yesterday from correspondent Nelson Notario Castro and you have been kept informed by all of Radio Rebelde's news services— in which an automobile shot at the general headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces in the outskirts of Chorrillo, a very popular neighborhood in the Panamanian capital.

### Actions Against, Views on Start-Up of TV Marti

#### Testing Against TV Marti To Begin

*FL1912124289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1203 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] As people have been opportunely informed, for several years the Government of the United States has been working on a project to broadcast television signals toward Cuba, in addition to the radio aggression that it applies against the revolution for destabilization purposes. The establishment of a television station by U.S. authorities that would penetrate a portion of our territory would be a flagrant violation of national sovereignty and a completely illegal act. The efforts of the Bush administration to invade Cuba's radio-electronic space and occupy one of our television channels grossly violates all norms and regulations on communications matters established by the United Nations and other international organizations. Our people, who have always given unequivocal proof of their unyielding decision to defend their sovereignty at whatever cost, again will not allow the U.S. Government to trample with impunity the right that each country has to administer its telecommunications.

Cuba has prepared itself to confront this new threat, give an adequate response, and make this wild plan fail. To thwart the million dollar project, which involves the use of an unusual amount of high-level technology, our engineers have created devices capable of considerably degrading the enemy television signal and, thus, defeat this attempt to impose an electronic Platt Amendment

against our country. The equipment developed for interference has successfully been tested in laboratories and its efficiency has been partially proven.

In view of the Yankee threat to initiate broadcasts against Cuba, our government has authorized the start of large-scale tests on some of our national television broadcasts. The first test will take place today, Tuesday, 19 December between 1900 and 1930 [0000 GMT to 0030 GMT 20 December] in a few areas selected in Havana City on signals from certain transmitters used by Tele-Rebelde.

Television viewers that reside in the testing areas will have their reception affected on this channel during this time. These tests, which are just part of the potential that exists in Havana City, will allow for the implementation of adjustments and corrections.

Signed: Communications Ministry, Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Cuban Institute of Radio and Television.

### Conference Wants TV Marti Reconsidered

*FL1912144889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties has demanded that the U.S. Congress reconsider its decision to establish a television station directed exclusively against Cuba. In a resolution approved by the 15th plenum of the conference, which met in Buenos Aires, it was stated that the proposed U.S. project will have negative repercussions in hemispheric relations. In the document, delegates from 46 regional political parties expressed their concern for the real possibility that those broadcasts will create a new climate of tension between the United States and Cuba. They also said the project is a violation of Cuba's radioelectronic space and contradicts international norms and regulations in force.

### Alarcon Discusses TV Marti With Students

*FL1912190689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, Havana University Rector Fernando Rojas, officials from the Cuban Foreign Ministry, professors, and Cuban researchers have held what could be called a news conference with students at the School of Journalism on the anti-Cuban television project. The technical and legal aspects of the illegal nature of this television project were clarified during the workshop. It was said that the misnomered TV Marti violates international agreements on telecommunications and is an attack against our sovereignty, as well as our people's right to receive information that is truthful, exact, and in accordance with our social system.

The journalism students said that as future professionals, as revolutionary youths, and as Cubans, they find it unacceptable that such a plan of interference will be implemented. They also said that using the name of our national hero, Jose Marti, for this reactionary television station is an offense to Cuban journalism.

### News Conference on TV Marti

*FL1912161589 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 Dec 89*

[Special "Agenda Abierta" program carrying "highlights" of the 14 December news conference on TV Marti granted by Armando Hart Davalos, culture minister and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo; Reinaldo Montero, vice minister of communications; Ricardo Alarcon, first vice foreign minister; and Gary Gonzalez, first vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, ICRT, in Havana;—recorded]

[Text] [Cristina Baznos of the National Radio Television of Greece] I would like to ask the minister a question. Referring specifically to culture, what do you think could be the impact on Cuba of a U.S. television broadcast? Above all, do you think this could cause irreparable political damage?

[Hart Davalos] We do not accept what an American called the electronic version of the Platt Amendment. It will have an international political effect of unforeseen consequences and the main responsibility will fall, naturally, on the U.S. Government. Before answering the question, we can explain the basis of this decision... [rephrases] our position. First of all, this is a matter of sovereignty and international agreements, signed even by the United States. If these agreements are violated, or if they continue to be violated—the United States constantly violates agreements and international accords, but if in this case they continue to be violated—a chaotic situation could be created. We do not put up for discussion the matter of sovereignty because it is a principle that cannot be waivered.

Furthermore, answering your question from a cultural point of view, the main promoters of this initiative are not acting to promote American culture but rather are betraying the cultural ideals of the Cuban nation. In other words, the promoters of this initiative have betrayed the ideals of the culture of this country. The most evident and tangible proof of this can be seen in the very fact—which is very immoral—that they have used the name of the most important political and intellectual figure in the history of Cuba, who was, even before Lenin, the first to warn the world about the dangers of U.S. imperialism. Here we have works by Marti that we could read, but we do not want to prolong this press conference. However, what we propose to you—not to these ill-fated promoters but to the men of culture of the United States—is an exchange of opinions on the thinking of Jose Marti. We propose this to the men of culture of the United States and not to the promoters of the initiative. I think an exchange would contribute a lot to Cuban culture as well as to American culture.

[Bertrand Rosenthal, AFP] For several months it has been warned that Cuba will take measures if TV Marti is launched. Today, what could those types of measures be? Could they be of the same nature as the one that was launched in 1985 when Radio Marti was launched—the immigration agreement?

[Reinaldo Montero] From a technical point of view, measures have been guaranteed that would prevent Television...[corrects himself] the misnomered Television Marti from being seen in our country. The technical specialists of the Communications Ministry, the engineers, have been working with dedication and perseverance, studying all the possible measures that could be adopted against this decision. Devices have been created so the television signal will not be received in our country with the quality the attackers expect. These measures consist of the creation of certain interferences, an adequate level of interferences, that will prevent the signal from being seen in our country with the quality they expect. Our country has the ability to air radio broadcasts that would create serious complications for radio reception in the United States.

[Ricardo Alarcon] Regarding Rosenthal's question, I would like to add the following: We have time and again said, and we reiterate it here, that our response will conform to the extent of our capabilities. On the one hand, we will respond by preventing these broadcasts from entering Cuba. On this subject, I would like to state that it is not a matter of us being afraid of the content or the fact that programming, which is manufactured or comes from abroad, appears on our television. Cuban television, and this can be seen at any time, has a high percentage of programs that are not Cuban, programs that are not socialist. It has a higher percentage of foreign programs, disproportionately higher, than U.S. television stations. The Cuban public can see many more foreign programs than the U.S. public, even though there are hundreds of television stations throughout the country.

As Comrade Hart put it, it is above all a question of sovereignty. Cuba, like any other country in the world, has 12 channels on the VHF band from channels 2 through 13, which are part of its radio-electronic space. The sovereignty of countries includes the land, the sea around it, the air that covers it, and the subsoil. To allow a foreign country to occupy part of that airspace is the same as allowing them to occupy part of their territory, sea, or subsoil. Thus, as the U.S. professor quoted by Comrade Hart said, this would be an electronic Platt Amendment; it would entail occupying part of the Cuban national territory. Therefore, this would signify a foreign aggression against Cuban sovereignty and, as the country under attack, Cuba would have every right to exert its legitimate right to self defense and respond to this aggression in addition to taking steps to prevent this aggression from happening. As any country would do when an attempt is made to occupy part of its soil or part of its sea, in addition to preventing this from happening, we would be entitled to respond as we see it fit. I do not think the conditions are right for us to tell you specifically what our responses will be, to what degree and in what manner. That is the right of the country under attack. What I can say is that we will take these measures. Let it be made quite clear that it will not be an attack that goes without a response. This is what I wanted to add.

[Hart Davalos] Questions have been raised about the political implications. This will perhaps be one of the most significant political events when it materializes. This fact gives us the right not only to denounce this act of violation of our national sovereignty, but to raise seriously before international organizations, before the United Nations, before the Nonaligned Movement, before all world countries, the question of whether or not the United States has the right to meddle in the domestic life of other countries. We will raise this question everywhere and we will demand that it be discussed everywhere. This action will have an enourmous political repercussion and I believe there are positive, democratic political forces both within and outside the United States. Therefore, from the political standpoint, it is an element that will cloud international relations. We will see if the United States and the U.S. people are willing to pay the price for clouding international relations, as will certainly be the case if this action is taken.

[Pedro de la Hoz, GRANMA] I would like to ask the following question: The promoters of this idea have biasedly attempted to justify it by claiming that television transcends borders, citing the case of the two Germanies in Europe. Would you like to comment on this?

[Gary Gonzalez] There is no precedent in the world for a channel that is specifically designed for beaming to and whose programming are intended for another country. Weather permitting—which is the case more than 100 days per year—and as long as one has a good antenna, in some cases even without a good antenna, we can watch Florida television stations in our country. We have never complained about this because these are U.S. television stations intended for the American people, which are not designed to broadcast against our country. These are simply technical possibilities that will further expand as a result of technological development. However, this channel has been specifically designed to broadcast against our country. We have seen it, noted it, and know its background.

Therefore, there is no precedent in the world, not even in the GDR, which has been the hardest hit by this type of media activity. The GDR has been exposed to media activity simply because European countries are close to one another and they maintain intense border relations. One can see media activity there, but none is specifically designed and intended against a particular country, as in this case.

[Ricardo Alarcon] As Gary was saying, these are absolutely different cases. This is the only channel; it is the first time in history that a government—it is not a

private television enterprise, but a government—creates a television station, not to broadcast within the country, but to exclusively broadcast to and against another country. This has nothing in common with the overlapping of or the monitorability of the signals of a television station beyond the borders of its country of origin into a neighboring state. Even regarding this aspect, there are many international regulations to avoid the overlapping; to prevent the television signals of stations from one country from being monitorable within the borders of a neighboring country.

If we want to cite an example of this case, the most clear-cut case on this planet is the United States of America. The United States has signed bilateral agreements with its two neighors: Mexico, to the south; and Canada, to the north. I would invite you to read those agreements and see how they contain precise and detailed regulations to prevent television services, including private stations, of one country from reaching beyond the community they are beamed to and from affecting television services by another channel in a neighboring country. We are talking precisely about this area of televison.

[Juan Manuel Lopez] Of the Mexican newspaper EL NACIONAL. I have a few questions. One of them is, how does the government explain the fact that the broadcasts have not yet started? Do you believe there are technical, or political problems, or is there fear? If these broadcasts start, what treatment will be given to those Cubans viewing these programs? Would they be considered as listeners-recipients of the enemy's image? If these broadcasts begin, would this pose a challenge to Cuban media organizations, especially television? If these broadcasts start, could Cuba promote the steps to lay the groundwork for some sort of Latin American integration of radio and television and of other media organizations, as a mechanism for self-defense and political-cultural reaffirmation of Latin American nationalism?

[Hart Davalos] I believe Latin American integration in radio, filmmaking, and television should be sought through a coordinated effort based on mutual respect for each country's sovereignty, independently from this initiative. Work to this effect has been under way.

[Reinaldo Montero] Mr. Lopez referred to the possible reasons that have delayed TV Marti broadcasts. From the technical standpoint, it is extremely difficult to do what they want to do against our country, that is, as Dr. Hart said, transmissions will have to be done through an aerostat from 3,600 meters high, as they themselves said. There are doubts about the stability of this aerostat to carry out its transmissions. This issue was discussed inside the United States. This, among other things, could have been a problem. They may have been looking for ways to make their system reliable.

[Gary Gonzalez] We may look at the aspect of this problem that could be regarded as a challenge. First of all, our goal is to prevent it from happening based on the justifications we gave earlier. Secondly, we are defending not only the position of Cuba as a sovereign country, but also the sovereignty of all poor countries, because the action that is now directed at our country may eventually be directed at any other poor country of the Third World. This act of aggression has obviously created a mood among our workers that encourages us to meet this challenge, not with a view to competing with anyone, because under no circumstance could we, as a poor country, seek to compete with the United States, which is in fact economically and technologically more advanced than us. Nor could we think that the step forward taken by the ICRT workers, who vowed to use all their talent and make every effort to improve our television programming, stemmed from this challenge alone. This is a responsibily our institution has with our people. We have worked hard in this direction in recent years based on social research and polls, on experiments in various vacation periods, in an effort to improve and to modernize our television. Again, I repeat that this is not an effort to compete with anyone. Our programs are based on ethical, moral, ideological values, which are not necessarily the pillars of a commercial television station, let alone of an anti-Cuban television station.

In this regard, we produce 70 percent of our programs; 30 percent of them are of foreign origin. We have tried to obtain programs from a wide range of countries. Last year, we carried programs from 36 countries, and U.S. programs accounted for a large share of this percentage. Many journalists are often surprised by this fact. For instance, if we consider our summer programs, namely the films shown during this period, we carried 133 films, 132 of which were foreign films, and 46 percent of which were U.S. films. I repeat, our television carried programs from more than 36 countries from the various continents. National television programs are produced at a high cost, with great sacrifice and effort. They promote our country's culture and their fundamental objective is to shape our national culture. No other Latin American country has achieved a similar percentage of national production. Few countries from other regions of the world have succeeded in doing the same.

[Hart Davalos] One aspect of your question we do not want to overlook is your desire to know if we are going to allow the Cuban people to watch that television station. In the first place, your question is not relevant because we are not going to accept that television station and we are going to adopt every measure to this end. Thus, I cannot approach this matter in those terms. I cannot say if we are going to allow the people to watch it because the Cuban people themselves will not allow it.

Now, this is related to something very important. To what extent are individual and cultural rights guaranteed in Cuba? This is another aspect. To what extent are these rights guaranteed? This is related to our concept of culture and to the right we recognize for each citizen to have access to culture. In the first place, let us make it clear that the station over there is not culture. In any case, we have to first see if it comes. Secondly, we should

emphasize that culture is based on the principles outlined by Jose Marti...[repeats himself] on the principles of Jose Marti.

Our people react politically when faced with major tasks, as they reacted, for instance, on 7 December. On that day, you were able to witness a spontaneous popular response to ratify the line we have followed and, above all, to pay tribute to our internationalist martyrs. We do have a challenge in our country: The challenge facing Cuban culture, which is linked to Latin America, against the hegemonic U.S. culture, which does not include all U.S. cultural sectors, because there are many valuable, good, positive sectors within the U.S. culture, too.

What we tell Cubans, what we discuss with them, and what persuades Cubans that that station violates our sovereignty are the cultural principles outlined by the apostle of our independence, Jose Marti. This is the reply we can give to your question. Discussing this problem with Cubans in our country, and in keeping with our tradition, we are defending a culture that can relate to that of other countries, but that is also based on a principle outlined by Jose Marti, who said: Let the world join the tree of our republics, but the trunk of that tree must be that of our republics.

[Antonio Resillez, introducing next segment of program] We are continuing to broadcast highlights of the news conference held a few hours ago at a Havana hotel regarding, precisely, the U.S. Government television project designed to undermine our national sovereignty. Several other topics are discussed in the next segment.

[P. Fletch, Reuter] I apologize for insisting on the subject of responses. Vice Minister Montero made it clear that a technical response is feasible. I know that you perhaps have not considered other responses, but you may have some ideas. Could you specify other areas, whether political or economic, in which you could respond?

[Hart Davalos] I am going to answer your question....

[P. Fletch] Yes....

[Hart Davalos] A few moments ago I was planning to say this, but it is your question that is actually making me say it. What kind of reply could one expect from any country, from your country or any other country, when it is facing a possible violation of its sovereignty? This entails aspects that no state can or should discuss. If the United States threatens to invade Mexico, or Canada, or any other country, I believe one cannot ask that country to say how it is going to respond. Also involved in this are aspects relating to the discretion that is indispensable for defense. These aspects must be considered. What we can state, however, and it is proper to repeat this here, is that we are not going to stand idly by, that we are not going to permit it, that we consider it a violation of our sovereignty, and that we will do everything our country can do if its sovereignty is violated. [applause]

[Carlos Cabrera, from the cultural information and communications service] I would like to say that signs of reconciliatation and respect toward the revolution have been noted among the Cuban community in the United States. This coincides with an increasing integration of Cuba with Latin America. How does Cuba assess these events?

[Alarcon] I believe that the Cuban community, especially the residents of Florida, has sent many signals recently showing that there is a significant and growing number of Cubans who have a different approach, who hope that relations between their birth country and their country of residence will be normal, be better, so they may restore or maintain normal ties with their birth country and, in many cases, with their relatives residing in Cuba. To do this, these people have to overcome many difficulties, many stumbling blocks, many restrictions.

The same government that is promoting these programs, allegedly on behalf of freedom, is also taking other measures to make communications between Cubans from over there and Cubans from over here difficult. It does so by imposing financial restrictions on those Cubans regarding the money they can take when traveling to Cuba. It imposes more and more restrictions. The last ones were imposed in October. It restricts the flights between Miami and Havana. This would possibly make air fares more expensive and make it more difficult for some of these Cubans to visit their country or for many Cubans who visit their relatives in Florida.

Evidently, I would say that everything that is aimed at poisoning even more relations between Cuba and the United States hurts, above all, Cubans who live in the United States. Many of these Cubans know this. They have expressed it in more than one way.

[Hart Davalos] I wanted to add to what Comrade Alarcon said that Cuba's policy is not a policy of isolation. Cuba's policy is a policy of rapprochement with all countries of the world. We do not want isolation either in communication or in any cultural field. We want ties and relations that are based on cultural, political, and mutual respect. I say this because the disinformation existing in the world about Cuba portrays Cuba as a country that wants to withdraw itself into its own shell. Cuba has never been a country inside a shell. Cuba has always been a country that has attempted to be in contact with everybody. The rules of the game need to be changed and the ball has to be thrown into the other court. Those who disinform, who do not inform, and the ones who want Cuba to be isolated are not us, but are them, the U.S. administrations.

[Santiago Alvarez, Cuban Cinematographic Art and Industry Institute] Throughout this news conference, some delegates and journalists have been constantly asking what would Cuba do in such and such case. Comrade Armando Hart just said that the ball needs to be thrown into the other court instead of us receiving the

ball. We are tired of being accused, we are always in the defendant's seat. We need to place the one that really deserves it in the defendant's seat. I would ask the following question so the foreign journalists here can convey it to Mr. Bush: If the Soviet Union and Gorbachev established a television station named TV Lincoln so the United States establishes Yankeestroyka, [laughter] how would that administration and those Yankee congressmen react? [applause and shouts of bravo]

[Bertrand Rosenthal, AFP] I have two questions. Cuba canceled the immigration agreement when Radio Marti was launched in 1985. Later, negotiations were held until the immigration agreement between the United States and Cuba was implemented. At that time, negotiations were going on between the two countries on radio broadcasting matters. The first question is: Are those negotiations still going on? Are they considering the TV Marti case? The second question is: Do you consider Radio Marti positive or negative and why? [noise from the crowd]

[Alarcon] Regarding the first question, we reached an agreement with the United States in which the immigration agreement was implemented and, at the same time, the two sides made a commitment to negotiate the matters regarding radio broadcasts from one country beamed to another. All of those who understand the Spanish language and know about the situation existing between the two countries will agree with me that the discussion of the situation created by the so-called Radio Marti was included. It is the only radio broadcast system originating in one of the two countries aimed at listeners in the other country. If you set 1180 KHz anywhere in Havana, you will be able to listen to a radio station identifying itself as a radio service of the Voice of the United States, which is a U.S. Government institution, beamed to Cuba. It is even prohibited for these radio broadcast to be heard or carried in the United States.

While we were discussing this matter... [changes thought] By the way, the Cuban side had stated that it could not accept the one-sided flow of radio information between two countries. We said we were willing, among other possibilities... [changes thought] The first one, of course, is to put an end to this prerogative that a government attributes to itself to organize a radio broadcast beamed to another country, which is also a violation of international law. This is not the same as the matter of radio interference, when one radio broadcast from one country is heard in another one, caused by technological developments. These talks have been interrupted for several months. I do not want to get into it in detail. I would only say that the ball, as Comrade Armando was saying, is in the other court.

Regarding the assessment of Radio Marti, my personal opinion is that, first, it is an inadmissible attack, it violates international law, and it is motivated by an aggressive interest to destabilize or subvert another country. I also believe that it is a useless and empty effort. I have to say that it is not the first time that the United States has created a radio service beamed to Cuba. In the sixties, there were transmissions beamed to Cuba 24 hours a day. They covered our territory. Our island has been surrounded by radio transmissions beamed to our territory for a long time, among other things. There was a reason that led the Americans to decide to put an end to those transmissions at a given time. They realized that they were not needed.

The United States is in the habit of having a budget deficit; a trade deficit; an outrageous internal debt that is much larger than the foreign debt of all Third World countries; of spending resources in the arms race; of destabilizing Cuba, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, or any country in the world. To achieve this, they have disinformed the people from whom they get their money. They get their dollars through income tax, etc., and waste it in this irresponsible way. They spend millions of dollars on the so-called Radio Marti and on the so-called TV Marti project. Ultimately, the great U.S. plutocrats and the rulers who serve their interests could care less, because the money is taken away from the blacks, older people, children, and all those U.S. minorities who get their social services reduced so the money can be used in this useless spending. They can do this after all. They can squander the financial resources and, in this way, express their aggressiveness, their hostility toward a government with which they have refused to coexist in a normal and just way for 30 years.

[Hart Davalos] Are initiatives assessed or judged by the results obtained regardless of the nature of the initiative? The goal of Radio Marti was to intimidate the Cuban people. I understand that it even speculated a lot regarding the war in Angola and the presence of Cuban internationalists in Africa. There was a lot of speculating about this. I imagine that some of those present here were here on 7 December.

It was a true popular plebiscite of pain and support of the Cuban policy. This cannot be hidden. This took place at a time when comrades had fallen; martyrs were involved. The whole Cuban family spontaneously took to the streets with great discipline, with great respect, and we could even say with a great honor in the entire country.

This should also be reported abroad. What happened in Cuba on 7 December has to be said abroad also. It was the moral support of the people who were definitely shaken and touched by pain but at the same time were honored by having successfully carried out a feat such as the one that took place in Angola.

Radio Marti was not able to act against this. Therefore, I believe they are doing poor business since their goal was to intimidate the Cuban people. The Cuban people do not allow themselves to be intimidated. The Cuban people do not allow themselves to be intimidated by anyone. They support their revolution. What needs to be asked is—to throw the ball into the other court again—why have the Cuban people been faithful and remained

firm behind this revolution? I believe that at one time somebody in the U.S., a U.S. official, asked himself this question and asked it to another Latin American official. He asked: Why was Fidel supported so much? The Latin American official said: Because he said many truths.

I throw the question over there. I throw the ball over there. I ask you to ask yourselves why have we been united, firm, and with such a high revolutionary consciousness for so long? I believe that all the methods used by the U.S. Government so far have been a failure. The time has come for them to begin rectifying. [applause and bravos]

[Resillez] The Cuban television news services, as we have been announcing in the last weeks and months, have presented the latest news regarding the television aggression project the U.S. Government is planning to launch against our sovereignty. In the future, we will continue, through this "Open Agenda" program and other news spaces in our channels, to bring you the most important reports on this subject. Thank you very much.

### Castro, PCC Plenum Discuss 1990 Economic Plans

*FL2012143189 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] The 10th plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] began meeting yesterday afternoon. It was presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

Yesterday's agenda included the analysis of the 1990 PCC budget, statistical guidelines for the national economy, and the state budget for next year. These reports were presented, respectively, by the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN) and the State Finance Committee.

The plenary meeting is also being attended by such guests as the chiefs of departments of the Central Committee, as well as ministers and other organization heads of the State Central Administration.

The 1990 PCC budget was approved after it was analyzed and after the reduction of spending for 1990 was presented. JUCEPLAN Minister President Antonio Rodriguez Maurell then presented the statistical guidelines for the next plan for the national economy. He said that amid the most complex problems of the last several decades, a sustained pace of growth is proposed to quickly meet the population's fundamental needs and promote basic programs for the economic and social development of the country. He mentioned the experience gained from the implementation of the 1989 plan which confronted many problems that were not expected at the time it was created. Rodriguez Maurell also stressed the way the leaders of the PCC and the government, headed by Comrade Fidel, assumed the tasks of directing and developing the economy amid such complex problems, which allowed us to maintain the fundamental lines of development and confront the population's most pressing problems.

In reference to these topics, Fidel said that the 1990 plan assumes that the country will be working with less freely-convertable currency and will have trade difficulties with socialist countries. He stressed the need to optimize the use of everything we have and to sacrifice that which is truly not essential. It is not just a matter of surviving under adverse conditions, he said, but to develop.

Fidel also mentioned the most important investment programs for development and food production, as well as social projects, and the substantial growth that will be presented in 1990.

### Castro Meets With Film Festival Participants

*FL1912135889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night met in the Palace of Conventions with artists from throughout the world, filmmakers, Cuban intellectuals, and Latin American producers who are attending the 11th International Festival of New Latin American Film. In addition to Fidel, Armando Hart, culture minister, and Julio Garcia-Espinosa, president [as heard] of the Cuban Institute of Cinematrographic Arts and Industry, also spoke with the guests. The meeting was also attended by Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Michel Legran, Harry Belafonte, and other prestigious artists and intellectuals from the continent.

## Grenada

### Prime Minister Blaize Dies; To Be Buried 24 Dec

*FL1912192789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1844 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 19, CANA— Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, who died Tuesday, will be buried in neighbouring Carriacou Sunday, the government announced. The burial in Blaize's country of birth, will follow a service Friday at St. George's Anglican Church. Arrangements for the funeral are being made by a committee set up by the Grenada cabinet headed by Education Minister George Mc Guire.

Blaize, who died this morning, was 71. He suffered from a prostate gland disorder and arthritis. An official announcement said Blaize's health had deteriorated in the last three weeks.

One of his last tasks was to preside over an executive meeting of his party Monday [18 December] at his official residence. At his bedside when he died were his wife, Venitia, his daughter Valerie Jerome and her three children.

The government also announced a special sitting of the high court will be held Wednesday to pay tribute to Blaize, a British-trained lawyer.

### Ben Jones Sworn In as Prime Minister

*FL1912220089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2115 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 19, CANA—Politician/farmer Ben Jones was sworn in Tuesday as prime minister, hours after Grenada leader Herbert Blaize died. The government announced the appointment soon after the consultations Governor General Sir Paul Scoon had with leaders of the two opposition parties in Parliament—the National Democratic Congress [NDC] and the New National Party [NNP].

The two parties control nine of the 15 seats in Parliament, but NDC officials said they made no move to assert power during the 10-minute consultation at government house. Opposition leader George Brizan, one of the two deputy political leaders of the NDC, told the Caribbean News Agency [word indistinct], the party was not opposed to Jones, who usually acts as prime minister when Blaize is overseas, taking over. Brizan said Sir Paul told him and the other NDC deputy political leader, Francis Alexis, he was in favor of political continuity and was thinking of inviting Jones to become the prime minister.

He also said Sir Paul recommended elections soon—elections are constitutionally due by the end of March—but did not mention a time-frame. "We would want elections soon, to have a properly constituted government," Brizan told CANA.

Jones is in his 60s. He is a lawyer and a former magistrate. He also grows bananas and nutmegs. He was elected to Parliament for the first time in December 1984, when the NNP under Blaize swept to power. Jones unsuccessfully ran for parliament in 1972 and 1976 as a candidate for Blaize's party. In 1976, he was appointed an opposition senator, a position he held until the leftist New Jewel Movement took power in a 1979 coup d'etat.

He has been Blaize's deputy for nearly 20 years. In Blaize's cabinet, he held the foreign ministry, agriculture, tourism, and forestries portfolios. Jones, a war veteran, usually marches in the remembrance day parade. A former Lawn Tennis Association president, he still plays tennis. He is not married.

In a radio broadcast just before the swearing-in, Sir Paul said that the reason he had delayed the appointment for several hours was because he thought it prudent to take soundings and to counsel before taking a decision. "I had to be guided by the Constitution of Grenada and I had to think in terms of the peace and stability of this country," he remarked.

He said he made the appointment in the national interest. He appealed to Grenadians to support the new prime minister. "I want to ask all Grenadians to remain calm at this sad moment," he said. "I expect the ready support of all citizens of this country." He reminded Grenadians that general elections should be held shortly and added: "between now and then, I expect all concerned to behave with responsibility, decency and as true Grenadians for the peace, stability and prosperity of this country."

Blaize, 71, died this morning after a period of illness. He was suffering from a prostate gland disorder, for which he has been receiving medical treatment in the United States, and from arthritis. Blaize oversaw the return of democratic rule to Grenada after the 1983 U.S.-led invasion of the island ousted its marxist government.

As head of the New National Party, Blaize became prime minister in the December 1984 elections. But he ran into trouble, when members of the party started complaining that he ignored their advice. In April 1987 three Cabinet members—Education Minister George Brizan, Attorney General Francis Alexis, and Junior Minister for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas—pulled out of the party. They said they could not support Blaize's plan to fire up to 1,800 public employees over the next year. They also disagreed with the government's handling of salary negotiations with two public sector labor unions.

Even then, problems persisted in the party, with Blaize losing the political leadership to former public utilities minister Dr. Keith Mitchell in January 1988. He sacked Mitchell as differences between the two continued, then launched another political party.

Blaize, a former chief minister when Grenada was a British colony, came out of political retirement to lead the new national party, a hastily assembled coalition of three centrist parties that won 14 of 15 parliamentary seats in the 1984 poll.

## Haiti

### President Avril Reshuffles Cabinet, Army

*FL1912170789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpts] [First announcer] The president of Haiti has announced changes in his Cabinet and the Army hierarchy. Seven out of 13 ministers have lost their jobs.

[Second announcer] General Prosper Avril reshuffled his Cabinet last night. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Acedius St Louis, who was minister of interior and national defense, has been transferred to the Army General Staff. He is being replaced as minister of interior by Colonel Fritz Romulus, considered one of the most moderate officers in the Haitian Army. Col Romulus has also been promoted to Brigadier General.

Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma has been replaced by engineer Franck Paultre, who was minister of Public

Works, Transport, and Communications [TPTC]. (Frank Cave) is now TPTC minister.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Ivon Cesar was also removed. He has been replaced by Edmond Dupuy, reportedly a young, liberal businessman.

Minister of National Education, Youth, and Sports Remy Zamor also lost his job. He has been replaced by Serge Petit-Frere.

Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development Frederic Agenor has been replaced by Wilner Francois, who has now (?risen) to the head of this ministry.

Minister of Planning and External Cooperation Theophile Roche has been replaced by (Michel Bonnet), who was appointed minister.

Minister of Administration and Civil Service Wilner Dessources has been replaced by (Remy Mathieu), who has now risen to the head of this ministry. Mathieu is reportedly a moderate technocrat and a former director of Radio Nationale, the government radio. [passage omitted]

Gen Avril has removed Gerard Bissainthe as head of the Commissariat for Overseas Haitians. Bissainthe has been replaced by Daniel Narcisse. Narcisse will work with two assistant commissioners. (Hughes Theodore) and (Joseph Laforest) have been appointed assistant general commissioners.

A communique from the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that the installation ceremony for the new cabinet will be today, 19 December, at 1130 at the National Palace.

The Ministry of Information and Coordination also announced that changes have been made in the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Staff.

Brigadier General Serge St-Eloi, FADH, has been promoted to Major General, FADH, and transferred from the position of G1, FADH, to that of Inspector General, FADH, replacing Major General Max Valles, who has been sent into retirement.

Brig Gen Acedius St Louis, FADH, has been transferred (?from) the position of G2, FADH, to the position of G1, FADH.

Fritz Romulus has been promoted to Brigadier General, FADH, and made G2, FADH.

Colonel Henri Robert Augustin (FADH), has been transferred from the position of commander, Military Department of the Metropolitan Area, to the position of assistant G2, FADH.

Lieutenant Colonel Martial Romulus (FADH), has been transferred from the position of assistant military attache in the Haitian Embassy in the United States to the position of commander of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Prud'homme (FADH), has been made assistant commander, Military Department of the Metropolitan Area. [passage omitted]

The president of the military government announced these changes, through a communique from the Ministry of Information and Coordination. A second communique from this ministry announced changes in the FADH.

## Jamaica

### Foreign Minister Signs Trade Pact With Nigeria

*FL1912200789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1933 GMT 19 Dec*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 19, CANA—Jamaica and Nigeria on Monday [18 December] signed a trade agreement establishing the legal framework within which trade between both countries will take place during the next 5 years. An agreement for the establishment of a Jamaica-Nigeria joint commission was also formalised. The agreements were signed during a visit to the island by Nigerian Foreign Minister Major General Ike Nwachukwu.

Jamaica's Foreign Minister David Coore, who signed on behalf of Jamaica, said that the agreement provided for the most favoured nation in all matters relating to import and export trade, the development of "buy-back schemes" and counter trade arrangements as well as the organisation of trade fairs in both countries.

He said that Article XII of the agreement provided for the establishment of a joint committee to be comprised of representatives of both countries. The committee would ensure the development of trade relations between the contracting parties.

Nwachukwu said the agreements reflected his country's commitment to developing trade with Jamaica and the Caribbean adding that Nigeria looked forward to receiving Jamaica's high commission designate to Nigeria, Dudley Thompson.

While here on his three-day visit, the Nigerian foreign minister toured the Kirkvine alumina plant in central Jamaica and held talks with several government officials and representatives of the opposition Jamaica Labour Party.

## Trinidad and Tobago

### 'Control of Imports' Important Factor for Economy

*FL1912175289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1704 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 19, CANA— Trinidad and Tobago is in a serious debt trap that could be sprung depending on the performance of the country's export sector, says senior government economist Frank Rampersad. Rampersad was quoted by the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN as saying that control of imports into the oil-based economy would be an important factor. Rampersad spoke to the paper as he prepared to retire next July his pre-retirement leave beginning on January 1. He has been a key economic advisor to successive governments here for many years.

"I think we are in a serious debt position and the problem as to whether that trap would be sprung depends on the performance of the export sector," Rampersad, currently chairman of the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), was quoted as saying.

Rampersad told the paper that the key was to optimise production of existing exportable goods such as oil and petro-chemicals, develop new sources of export earnings as well as tourism and manufacturing in non-traditional sectors, and try and restrict import volume to the level of the country's ability to pay. Rampersad's comments come ahead of the expected conclusion of a World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) which suggests the freeing up of imports into Trinidad and Tobago.

The government has argued that its counter proposal for increased extra-regional tariffs would deal with a flood of imports under the U.S. 80 million dollar bank package.

Asked about these developments, Rampersad said the country's short term debt, particularly with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a "cause for worry." He also told the paper he was concerned about the implications of freeing up imports on the SAL. "The country requires a much closer regulation of the import package. The structure of our import bill could change to our disadvantage," Rampersad said.

"You might find an excessive importation of luxury goods on which we cannot afford to spend our limited foreign exchange," Rampersad said and concluded that Trinidad and Tobago could manage its debt problem "provided we control the problem and limit our imports while trying to push new exports like tourism."

Rampersad was, however, optimistic about Trinidad and Tobago's future over the next decade pointing out that it had a pool of keen, well-trained young people who could hold their own in negotiations with anybody. "That more than anything else will assure us of a reasonable future," Rampersad said.

## Costa Rica

### Police Detain 5 Panamanians on Guerrilla Charges

*PA1912160389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Five Panamanian youths—Jorge Casasola, Olmedo Pitti, Juan Guillermo Morales, Robledo Miranda, and Teofilo Gonzalez—have been detained by the Costa Rican Police and accused of trying to conduct guerrilla operations from Costa Rican territory against the Panamanian military regime.

The extradition of the five Panamanian youths to Panama will clearly mean those youths' physical and mental torture and their death. In addition, the extradition would be a violation of international treaties regarding internal conflicts and extradition. International human rights organizations have been notified about the situation. The Costa Rican Government, however, has not given a categorical response to the Panamanian military regime's claims, but there is fear for the lives of the Panamanian youths.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has been honored with the Nobel Peace Prize and has become the most respected diplomat in Central America. However, he is now facing a situation in which diplomacy and the desire to be friendly conflicts with the lack of a legal regime in Panama.

## El Salvador

### Foreign Minister Asks UN To Urge Rebel Talks

*PA1912231089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas today asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to "convince" the Salvadoran rebels to resume the dialogue with the government and end the war in that Central American country.

"The UN Secretary General has been asked to try to convince the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to resume the dialogue," Minister Pacas stressed.

The talks between the government and the FMLN were suspended 2 months ago in Caracas, Venezuela.

Pacas hopes that the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) will help find a solution to the armed conflict that in 10 years has left more than 70,000 dead.

According to the foreign minister, to resume the dialogue that will lead to peace, the FMLN must "publicly announce an end to the hostilities."

The government, Pacas added, "remains firm" in its position to resume the dialogue "after they (the guerrillas) have ended all actions against the civilian population."

The government official said that the FMLN has used the previous talks as "tactics" and "abused the good faith of the government because as we talked, they were preparing the offensive" they launched on 11 November.

### Justice Minister Urges Talks

*PA1912232789 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, member of the government's Dialogue Commission, has reported that the Cristiani administration maintains its willingness to hold talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] despite the rebel front's violent behavior. He added that the necessary steps are being taken to resume the process including asking UN Secretary General Javier Perez to mediate with the rebels, which the Central American presidents have already done.

[Begin Santamaria recording] The UN secretary general was called upon by the Central American presidents to do all that he could to resume the dialogue process. Talking to the FMLN is the first thing we must do. The first thing we must do right now, however, is talk to those who could make this process a success. In this case, we are talking to the UN representative, the secretary general. I understand that our government is doing this. [end recording]

Santamaria added that the Salvadoran Government continues to believe that for the dialogue to continue, it is necessary the FMLN publicly declare it will stop the acts of violence against the civilian population. This was also discussed by the presidents of the area.

[Begin Santamaria recording] The government is the one that has been supported. Therefore, we believe that polarization must not be viewed from that angle. I would dare say that if anyone has paid dearly for its mistake it has been the FMLN. They believed that the masses would support their cause, but that was not the case. [end recording]

Justice Minister Santamaria said he hopes that by January the rebels will have opened the doors to dialogue and negotiation once again since they are the ones being tried by the region's people as well as the Salvadorans.

### Rebels Reject Talks

*PA2012040289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Dec (EFE)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] representative

in Mexico today reiterated his opposition to the resumption of talks with the Salvadoran Government as long as President Alfredo Cristiani does not change his stance.

In a communique, the FMLN denied that the Salvadoran situation is at a standstill and stressed that the "insurgency does not agree with the way the Salvadoran regime is interpreting the San Isidro agreements (signed on 12 December) and will remain firm regarding the suspension of the dialogue."

The communique adds that the Salvadoran Government continues to insist on an "inappropriately proposed" dialogue and negotiation "while, the Army has not shown any interest in solving the conflict; they are both taking only what is best for their purposes from the San Isidro declaration."

The FMLN stated that "the international community is perfectly aware of the fact that their requests make no sense."

The communique adds that the 11 November offensive removed the idea that the FMLN "is of little importance, and socially, militarily, and politically discredited" Cristiani's government.

The communique described the diplomatic efforts carried out by Cristiani "to improve his image and overcome the international isolation into which he had fallen" as a failure.

It adds that in El Salvador "there is no longer local or foreign support for the continuation of the war, which means that U.S. attempts to intervene have also been weakened."

The Mexican Government, for its part, today reiterated its call for the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN to resume the dialogue begun in Mexico in September and find a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict.

Mexico also "respectfully" asked the parties in conflict to agree on a truce to end the hostilities and suggested that this truce begin at 0000 on 22 December through 1 January 1990.

Likewise, Mexico expressed its hopes that the truce will be extended and that efforts at conciliation being carried out by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, and "our countries" will result in the crystallization of the peace process and national reconciliation in El Salvador.

### Army Reports on Clashes Throughout Country

*PA1912231689 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Military sources today reported that 14 casualties resulted from the the recent clashes between government troops and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebels. According to the military report, Bracamonte Battalion troops clashed with the rebels near El Rosario Hill, Antiguo Cuscatlan. Two rebels were wounded. The report adds that the 4th Military Detachment inflicted eight casualties on the FMLN during clashes in various areas of Morazan Department. They also reported that a soldier was wounded. Likewise, Oromontique Battalion troops clashed with rebels near La Cruzadilla de San Juan canton, Jiquilisco Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. Three rebels were killed. The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] also reported that FMLN rebels burned El Matasano Hacienda, Santiago Nonualco, La Paz Department. The hacienda is owned by Jorge Alberto Huete.

### Guerrillas Call for Transport Stoppage 20 Dec

*PA2012013789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0019 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] We call on everyone to refrain from driving for any reason whatsoever on 20 December. Our units will be on all roads and will sabotage all vehicles operating on 20 December. We call on Honduran and Guatemalan drivers to stay off all our roads in our national territory over the next 24 hours. Our units are already on the roads ambushing enemy military convoys. We, therefore, call on the population not to drive as they will meet with crossfire. To avoid accidents we call on drivers to stay off the roads over the next 24 hours.

### Rebel Radio Reports Honduran Troops in Morazan

*PA2012020789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0025 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] We have received the following report from Morazan Department: Yesterday, 18 December at 0900, Honduran troops crossed into El Salvador through El Cipres, Arambala Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. The Honduran soldiers interrograted 40-year-old Jose Sorto, who was loading his truck with lumber. He was forced to stop what he was doing, and the soldiers threatened to take him and his truck to Honduras. The man told them that they could take him if they wanted since they knew what they were after.

At 1800, the same soldiers crossed the border at the same place and went to the home of Alfredo Sorto. The soldiers then forced 30-year-old Isabel Garcia and her 18 year old nephew, Carlos, to move 15 loads of lumber into Honduras. At 1900, they were released and warned that they would be captured if they talked about what had happened.

### Arrested Terrorist Links Casolo With Rebel Army

*PA1912202389 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Dec 89 pp 10, 53*

[Text] A terrorist arrested by the Salvadoran National Police, has been identified as Ruth Esperanza Aguilar Marroquin, aka Sandra. She has described U.S. citizen Jennifer Casolo as an ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] member in charge of logistics. [logistica del ERP]

As has been reported, Casolo was released by a military judge after he determined that there was not enough evidence against her. Some groups, however, assert that Casolo was released because of political pressure from the United States, which threatened to launch a world-wide campaign to discredit El Salvador if Casolo was not released.

Aguilar Marroquin was arrested at 1500 on 9 December after having participated in an attack on an urban public bus near Juan Pablo II Boulevard.

The woman fled and sought refuge inside the facilities of the Salvadoran Alberto Masferrer University, where she took a group of students as hostages, threatening them with hand grenades. The police prevented her from doing anything and arrested her, confiscating one .45-caliber pistol, bullets, cartridges, and two fragmentation grenades.

Aguilar Marroquin said that she joined the ERP last March and that she was part of an urban commando called Workers Justice Command. Aguilar added that she knows U.S. citizen Jennifer Casolo, who belongs to the ERP, and that Casolo used to meet with terrorist leader Fernando, Workers Justice Command operations chief, near the National University school of dentistry (UES).

Aguilar added that Casolo was in charge of ERP logistics, especially lodging people and transporting arms and war equipment. The ERP had given her two minibuses for her to carry out her tasks.

Aguilar also said that she believes Casolo had a leading position within the organization, because in addition to meeting with Fernando, she also met with an individual known as Mincho, who is the political-military ERP metropolitan chief and also the chief of the so-called urban commandos.

The prisoner knew about the existence of the arms in Casolo's house, because on various occasions Aguilar's chief, known as Miriam, told her about it. Other terrorists went to Casolo's house to get weapons, ammunition, and explosives to conduct their sabotage operations against buses, telephone distribution boxes, electric towers, or to conduct large operations—as Aguilar described them—such as attacks on military garrisons.

According to the reports, the prisoner will be sent to court over the next few days.

## Rebels Report Death of Special Operations Fliers

*PA1912144289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 18 December]

[Text] The FMLN reports to the Salvadoran people that a group of special operations fighters died while fulfilling a special logistics mission during the current political-military offensive. These fighters are: Walter Osvaldo Alfaro Aguinada, aka Luis, a pilot from San Salvador; Rommel Hernandez Argueta, aka Elo, a flight gunner from Morazan Department; Isidro Posadas Martinez, aka Dennis, a flight gunner from Rio Seco, Morazan Department; and Santiago Rauda Posada, aka William, a flight gunner from San Juan Opico, La Libertad Department.

These companeros, along with the other heroes of the struggle for peace and democracy, are an eternal example of courage and daring.

[Signed] FMLN General Command, El Salvador, 18 December 1989.

## FMLN Reports Release of Prisoners of War

*PA1912215789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1803 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front document announcing release of 25 prisoners of war, issued in San Jorge, Usulutan Department, on 17 December]

[Text] San Jorge, 17 December 1989

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, certifies that on 16 December 1989, [words indistinct], there were clashes between columns of our revolutionary Army and 6th Infantry Brigade units from the Lempa and Vengador Battalions.

As a result of the clashes, our revolutionary units captured the following military personnel: Soldiers Jose Osvaldo Hernandez Chavez, Luis Alonso Rodriguez Cruz, Jose Luis Amaya Rivas, Napoleon del Carmen Flores, Roberto Gonzalez, Ramon Castillo Menendez, Jose Rigoberto Pineda, Jose Adonay Orellana, Luis Alberto Molina, Jose Fidel (?Tostovalde), Santos Fernandez Campos Vasquez, Lucio Guadalupe (?Bran) Morazaya, Orlando Jesus Angel Rodriguez, Jose Alfredo Montoya Rivas, Hector Manuel Serrano, Jose Medardo Chiles Rodriguez, Jose Santos Ladin Culato, and Luis Padilla.

The FMLN, as a force respectful of international agreements regarding the treatment of prisoners of war, has guaranteed—within the limits of its resources and conditions— to respect the physical and moral integrity of the FAES [Salvadoran Armed Forces] troops who were captured by our forces.

The FMLN has arranged the release of 18 FAES prisoners of war to a group of notable San Jorge citizens on 18 December at 1100. The signature of the prisoners of war on this document confirms the good treatment and respect our forces accorded them as prisoners of war.

The following are the signatures of representatives from the town of San Jorge, San Miguel Department, to whom the prisoners of war were turned over.

[Signed] Hernan Saravia Gonzalez, pharmacist; Miguel Angel (?Ticas) Merlo, professor; Jose Napoleon Vasquez, Lutheran pastor; Jeronimo Campos, basic education teacher; Hector Roberto Quintanilla, driver; Juan Torres Funez, [word indistinct]; Mauricio Humberto Espinosa, basic education teacher; Rosa Amelia Moreira, housewife.

### Prisoners Release Confirmed

*PA2012014889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] A report from Usulutan Department states that at 0930 on 18 December, 18 of the prisoners of war captured during the battle of El Nisperal, which is located 4 km north of the city of Usulutan, were released. Previous reports indicated that a total of 25 soldiers were captured in El Nisperal and that a few of them had been released. Now, at 0930 at the San Jorge Park, the remaining prisoners of war were released during a political event attended by town residents.

During this broadcast our guerrilla station will also air interviews with the prisoners captured at El Nisperal where, during the battle, one Army company was annihilated and two others were attacked, leaving a total of 29 soldiers killed, 30 wounded, and 25 captured.

We have already informed the people that during the El Nisperal battle our units captured 46 M-16 rifles, 2 M-60 machine guns, (?13) LAW rocket launchers, 4 M-79 grenade launchers with 40 grenades, and 11,000 rounds of ammunition.

In earlier reports we had underscored that since 1984, a battle of such proportions had not been staged in full daylight against infantry, artillery, and aviation, and in this case, we especially underscored that the theater of operations had changed and a battle staged in an area crucial to the war economy.

### Ponce Says No Changes in Armed Forces Staffing

*PA1912220589 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A few months ago, it was speculated that changes of command in certain Armed Forces key posts would take place late in 1989.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, Joint Chief of Staff, disregarded this possibility and said that the situation of violence in the country, particularly since the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] offensive, requires, more than ever, that the Armed Forces are militarily stable.

[Ponce] "I think the situation in the country demands military stability. Changes could provoke some unrest. We think no significant changes in the military command should be made at present because of the current situation. Should any changes be made, it would be for major reasons in the service. No high-level changes have been anticipated, however."

Referring to the rebels' activities, Colonel Ponce said the armed actions initiated, particularly in San Salvador on 11 November, have ended with unfavorable results for the guerrillas. He advised, however, that the guerrillas will continue to sabotage the country's economy and perpetrate terrorist actions.

[Ponce] "I can tell you that the FMLN has failed, militarily speaking. The FMLN's famous all-out offensive has ended in tremendous failure, determined by the Salvadoran people. We can anticipate that the FMLN will continue its sabotaging actions and terrorism which could destroy stores in San Salvador, as well as posts and towers on highways. The Salvadoran people can rest assured, however, that an offensive action by the FMLN at present can be disregarded."

Regarding the Christmas and New Year's festivities, which have been marred by the wave of violence, many people have wondered whether the 2300 - to - 0500 curfew is still in force. Ponce said the possibility of lifting the curfew at least on 24 and 31 December is being considered so that the Salvadoran families can enjoy these festivities. He added that such a measure, however, will depend on the FMLN's stance. Finally, Ponce reported that the FMLN machine-gunned a building with coffee harvesters in Santa Ana and maimed two people simply because they refused to stop harvesting coffee.

## Guatemala

### Cerezo Meets Belizean Prime Minister Esquivel

*PA1912201089 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The issue of the future of Belize—a 22,000- sq km territory which Guatemala has claimed for over a century—has been suddenly reactivated. It has been disclosed that President Vinicio Cerezo held talks in Honduras this weekend with the main Belizean authorities. The United Nations recognizes Belize as a new independent state. Cerezo met with Belize Prime Minister George Prize and with Manuel Esquivel, a Belize opposition leader and former prime minister. Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera and his Belize counterpart also participated in the talks, according to reports released in Guatemala City on 19 December. This has been confirmed by presidential spokesperson Claudia Arenas.

[Begin Arenas recording] President Cerezo traveled on 15 December to Honduras to exchange viewpoints with various people from Caribbean islands, seeking to confirm and attain better cooperation in our political and economic relations. The president held a working meeting with Belize Prime Minister Price and with Mr Esquivel, who were accompanied by the current Belize

foreign minister and the former foreign minister under the Manuel Esquivel administration. During the meeting, the Belize and Honduran Government delegations discussed various aspects of the dispute with Belize and analyzed the work carried out by the joint commission. [end recording]

The information provided thus far by official sources points out that President Cerezo's trip to Honduras was to exchange viewpoints with Caribbean countries with whom Guatemala already has diplomatic relations to seek economic and political improvement. The offical report does not give details on the countries whose representatives met with the Guatemalan delegation. In addition to President Cerezo and Foreign Minister Rivera y Diaz, the Guatemalan delegation included Minister of Specific Affairs Sarah Mishaan, and Captain Jorge Mazariegos Aguirre, commander of Santo Tomas de Castilla Naval Base.

## Nicaragua

### Compensation for 'Aggression' Demanded From U.S.

*PA2012024189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Managua, 19 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government today announced the formation of a commission to formulate a claim so that the United States pays for the harm caused to those affected by the "aggression" against Nicaragua. The announcement was made at "the time when the International Court of Justice is discussing the compensation stage of the suit Nicaragua filed" against the United States for the mining of the Nicaraguan ports in October 1983, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported.

Nicaraguan authorities have estimated that the U.S. - supported "counterrevolutionary" war against Nicaragua has inflicted losses amounting to more than $12 billion. This amount is still growing, however, because the U.S. Administration has continued its attacks.

In a communique, the Foreign Ministry reported that the commission will "create and coordinate the necessary mechanisms so all those people or organizations affected by the aggression against Nicaragua can file a claim for the harm sustained."

The commission is composed of Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Supreme Court of Justice President Rodrigo Reyes, Prosecutor General Omar Cortez, and Vilma Nunez de Escorcia, president of the National Commission for Furthering and Protecting Human Rights.

The highest international tribunal on 27 June 1986 condemned the government of then President Ronald Reagan for "violating international law to the detriment of Nicaragua." The court ordered all military and paramilitary actions against the country to cease.

Because of this, "the U.S. Government must compensate for all damages inflicted on Nicaragua as the result of the violation of the duties set forth by international law," the communique added.

The decision also makes it binding for Washington to compensate for the damage inflicted on Nicaragua as a result of the violation of the Friendship, Trade, and Navigation Treaty signed between the two nations, the Foreign Ministry noted.

In May 1985, the United States imposed a commercial embargo on the Nicaraguan revolutionary regime, an embargo that still stands.

In a news conference, Mauricio Herdocia, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, reported that in the hearings to be held at the court, probably in February next year, Nicaragua will increase the amount of the compensation sought from the U.S. Government.

### Electoral Council Reports Candidates Resignations

*PA2012023689 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], out of the 153 candidates for councilmen who resigned their candidacies, only 44 were replaced by their parties or alliances. So, 104 candidacies are vacant. This is the breakdown of the resignation requests the CSE approved: 40 from the Social Christian Alliance, 3 from PLIUN [Independent Liberal Party of National Unity], 5 from MUR, [Movement of Revolutionary Unity], 9 from PUCA [Central American Unionist Party], 87 from UNO [National Opposition Union], 2 from MAP [Marxist - Leninist People's Action Party], 1 from PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party], 2 from the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD], and 4 from the Social Conservative Party of Nicaragua.

The Social Christian Alliance replaced 3 of its candidates who resigned; PLIUN replaced 1; MUR replaced 3; PUCA replaced 4; UNO replaced 29; and the Social Conservative Party of Nicaragua replaced 4. MAP, PRT, and PCD did not replace their candidates. The Sandinist National Liberation Front is the only party that has not reported any resignations of its candidates. The CSE still has to process the resignations from all the country's regions.

### FSLN Backs Electoral Council Against Violence

*PA1912214589 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has expressed support for the measures issued by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to prevent acts of violence. FSLN legal representative Bayardo Arce Castano reiterated the appeal issued to FSLN militants

and supporters so that they will not be provoked by those who want to incite violence.

The FSLN's legal representative referred to the meeting of political parties where all the parties, with the exception of the UNO [National Opposition Union], signed a commitment to prevent acts of violence. He said that the UNO raised issues at the meeting that had nothing to do with stopping violence. He added that UNO wanted to condition the results of the elections to the parties' approval. The UNO also said at the meeting of political parties that it could not sign the document that demanded that the contras stop their attacks on the civilian population because it would lose influence if it did so.

[Begin Arce recording, in progress] ...appeal to Mrs Violeta Chamorro, Mr Virgilio, Antonio Lacayo, and the leaders of the political council to help us all seek peace and prevent violent actions from tarnishing the electoral process. [end recording]

Asked if the mass resignation of UNO councilmen candidates is a strategy to withdraw from the electoral process, Commander Arce said:

[Begin Arce recording] If candidates to councilmen are resigning, it would not be surprising if the presidential and vice presidential candidates also resigned. Such an action would show the lack of consistency of the opposition of those people. Our people would then be able to clearly understand that those people are not capable of governing. [end recording]

Arce said UN and OAS observers and Jimmy Carter view the development of the electoral process very positively.

### FSLN's Arce Says U.S. Observers 'Unqualified'

*PA2012025389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2212 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Text] Managua, 18 De (ACAN-EFE)—Commander Bayardo Arce, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] political campaign manager, stated that the U.S. Center for Democracy was unqualified to act as observer of the Nicaraguan electoral process ending with the 25 February elections.

Arce stated that this center "lost all ability to act as an impartial observer" when it said at the Central American summit held in Costa Rica last week that the Sandinists were responsible for the disturbances that occurred in the southeastern town of Masatepe on 10 December.

After a political demonstration, Sandinist and opposition members clashed in Masetepe, which led to the death of a young Sandinist, 15 injuries, and damage to vehicles and buildings.

The Sandinist leader said that it was "suspicious" that immediately after the events in Masetepe, the director of the U.S. center, Allan Weinstein, went to Costa Rica to blame the Sandinists for the disturbances. Arce blamed the opposition for the events.

The Center for Democracy's headquarters is in Washington, and it was invited by the Nicaraguan Government to observe the country's electoral process.

The FSLN commander also asked Violeta Chamorro, Nicaraguan presidential candidate of the 14-party National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance, to support the measures that have been taken to end violence during the electoral process.

Today, the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) announced a series of measures to avoid "physical and verbal violence" during the electoral process that is to end with the 25 February elections.

Arce, one of the nine members of the FSLN directorate, supported the CSE measures and called UNO leaders to demand that the "contras" stop attacking the population and the electoral process. He also exhorted Sandinist supporters not to be "provoked" into "violence."

On his part, UNO spokesman Luis Sanchez asked the government to stop encouraging its followers to hinder opposition demonstrations and not to pressure UNO candidates to resign from their positions as municipal officials and deputies.

Also, UNO deputy candidate Ivan Salvador Madrid reported that the government had arrested seven opposition members in northern Matagalpa on 17 December. He requested that the government adhere to the guidelines set by the CSE.

Among other measures, the CSE recommended that the police uphold public order during political demonstrations and that they should stay no less than 100 meters from any electoral event.

Furthermore, the CSE asked all media directors to eliminate "insulting and offensive language" and announced the creation of the Media Directorate that is to apply the existing media law.

## Panama

### U.S. Troops 'Invading,' Bombing Panama City

*PA2012062589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0605 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Listeners throughout the country, listeners throughout the country: This is the network of loyalty, the state network of Radio Nacional de Panama.

Invading U.S. troops are currently carrying out actions over the capital city. They are bombing the capital city with B-52 cargo airplanes. They are firing on the unarmed Panamanian people.

U.S. troops, following instructions from the genocidal George Bush and the genocidal Marc Cisneros and

Maxwell Thurman, are bombing the capital city right now. Invading U.S. troops are bombing Panama City. They are doing what they had warned they would do on 19 December. As the assassin George Bush said, the Panamanian people will have a very sad Christmas. Today, 20 December 1989, he is bombing our capital city.

Listeners of Radio Nacional de Panama, this is the network of loyalty, the state network of Radio Nacional reporting the situation in the country, in our free and sovereign fatherland, from the site of the events. We will continue reporting.

### Endara Speaks; Vows To Fulfill Presidency

*PA2012065989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0643 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN - EFE)— Guillermo Endara, top leader of the Panamanian opposition, said tonight that the military action started by the United States against the Panamanian military establishment "seeks to end the Noriega dictatorship and reestablish democracy, justice, and freedom."

Endara told a Costa Rican radio station that this very evening "I have sworn before God and the fatherland to fulfill my functions as president of the Republic."

The opposition leader, who feels that he was elected president in the Panamanian elections on 7 May, which were subsequently annulled, said that the U.S. action is being carried out "in various parts of the country."

Endara, whose exact whereabouts are unknown, asked the Panamanian military personnel "not to resist," and told them that, "as men in uniform, you will have an important role to play in a democratic Panama, which will belong to us all."

"We do not want more suffering or more pain," Endara added. He asked all his compatriots "to remain in their homes calmly," and asked the military "not to allow themselves to be used by Noriega any more."

"When this is over, we will be able to celebrate the arrival of democracy, justice, and freedom," Endara said.

### Whereabouts of General Noriega Still Unknown

*PA2012073389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0713 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Excerpts] Panama, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A Panamanian suboffícer on guard at a headquarters located in the eastern part of the capital, in an area in which there are also U.S. military installations, told ACAN-EFE that there is bombing and shooting around the area where he is, and that he received an anonymous ultimatum stating that "you must surrender or suffer the consequences."

Two hours after the military action began, intense clashes and bombings are still under way, and witnesses have indicated that the three main Panamanian headquarters in Panama City are still under attack.

The whereabouts of Noriega, 51—who over the past few years has warned of an imminent U.S. "invasion"—are unknown.

Witnesses report that there are fires in various areas of Panama City where clashes and bombings took place.

Military airplanes are constantly overflying Panama City, dropping flares, tracers, and bombs.

### Reported 'Safe,' Directing Fight

*PA2012085689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0835 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Dec (DPA)—During a telephone interview with Mexico's Televisa [Mexico City XEW Television Network] a Panamanian military spokesman said that General Manuel Antonio Noriega did not fall into the hands of the U.S. invading troops and he is safe.

The spokesman, Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, said that Noriega is safe and that he is directing the resistance against the invading troops.

Lopez Grimaldo added that for security reasons he could not disclose where Noriega is at this moment.

According to Maj Lopez Grimaldo, the Panamanian Army learned of the invasion before it was launched and placed itself on a state of alert.

### Reported Leading 'Loyal Forces'

*PA2012092589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0856 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Live telephone report by reporter Rafael Silva from Panama City]

[Text] I must inform all of the Panamanian people and fellow patriots, that the commander in chief of dignity, the commander of sovereignty, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, is at the head of the patriotic and loyal forces who are defending this fatherland.

### Possibility of Interview Noted

*PA2012104489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0918 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Totally trustworthy sources point out that loyal, patriotic Panamanian forces today repelled Americans in San Miguelito, forcing them to leave the area. I repeat, in San Miguelito, patriotic and loyal forces repelled a U.S. invasion.

I must also report that clashes are under way throughout the length of Avenida de los Martires, and that the patriotic forces are making this a proud moment for the Panamanian flag. I repeat to all Panamanians that at this moment, regardless of political ideologies, the problem is no longer a COLINA [National Liberation Coalition],

ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance], PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], Panamenist, or Christian Democratic problem. It is a problem of the fatherland, which has come under attack. It is a small fatherland attacked by a larger nation.

The city is under control, in spite of everything. As you know, on the way here my car was taken by the Dignity Battalions, who have had to seize taxis and vehicles circulating in the streets.

There is a possibility that we may contact General Noriega. The only problem is that I have been left without a vehicle. I hope the Dignity Battalions who took my automobile will bring it to Radio Nacional so I can see if I can get this important interview.

### Radio To Have Noriega Statements 'Soon'

*PA2012124989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] The North Americans have been disinforming. On Radio Cadena Caracol... [changes thought] Listen to this station. We are going to read all the news dispatches, the gringo and Soviet dispatches. You will hear all the news on this national resistance network. We are not going to hide the news. We are going to report what the North Americans, Bush, and Noriega have to say. Soon we will have statements by General Noriega.

There were reports that reporter Martin Alberto Paz had been killed. This was reported by Radio Cadena Caracol and we almost repeated the report; however, instinct prevented us from releasing that false information. We are happy to report that it is not true that Martin Alberto Paz is dead. He is alive.

### Noriega Reported Safe

*PA2012123389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1213 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statement by Captain Gaitan, a bodyguard of General Manuel Antonio Noreiga—live]

[Text] Message to the country: Our commander is fine and in a safe location. No one is surrendering positions. In the provinces, prepare to resist. They will continue their attacks once they realize that we will not give in.

Message to Alex and Omar from (El Cofe). The next one is in Che 1. Omar and Alex. Alex drive the man from the hangar and Yeyo. Dignity Battalions carry out small operations during the day; set positions and mix with the people who support you. At night mobilize and act against the enemy redoubts in the areas around city.

To Burrito, move a lot, move constantly with the 40 cats.

Once again to the nation: Our commander is fine and in a safe place and we are determined to resist.

Thank you.

### Reportedly Still in Panama City

*PA2012160389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1528 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City 20 Dec. (ACAN-EFE)—Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, General Manuel Antonio Noriega's spokesman, told foreign newsmen that the head of government and of the Panama Defense Forces "is in the capital city."

Lopez Grimaldo said, "General Noriega is somewhere in the capital city personally leading the defense, security, and counteroffensive operations against the enemy."

Other Panamanian forces had stressed over the government radio station that Noriega has managed to evade the U.S. military operation to capture him, and that he is leading his troops and the government.

### Progovernment Figure Makes Statement to People

*PA2012080789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0711 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone statement to the Panamanian people by former legislator Rigoberto Paredes on 20 December—live]

[Text] To all the Panamanian people, a voice of encouragement. To all the Panamanian people at this time when we are being subjected to a dastardly attack by the U.S. Army in an indescribable, unprecedented invasion, a criminal act, a genocidal act against a people who have only been friends to the United States. Today more than ever we must resist and resist with intelligence. Resist and defend ourselves, but never surrender.

A short while ago I heard the news conference at the White House. White House spokesman Fitzwater did not even have the courage to raise his eyes to the camera because he was saying absurd things such as Panama had declared war on the United States. We all know, dear Panamanians, that Panama declared itself in a state of war because the United States was using war tactics against Panama. Reagan as well as Bush did this. All that Panama has done is defend itself. All that Panama has done is take measures to defend itself.

The United States has said everything, all the lies possible, to the American people to deceive them. However, this infamous invasion does not have legal support in the United States or before humanity. Thus, we ask the neighboring countries of Latin America, the neighboring countries of the world, and societies the world over to reject this vile attack, to admonish Bush's government so that he will stop this genocide against the Panamanian people who, I repeat, have only been friends to the United States.

The United States has invented all types of lies, and now it turns out that we, as usual the victims of aggression, the victims of aggressions since before 1903, turn out to be—as those liars would say—their aggressors. And

Endara; I do not know on what radio station, Endara the traitor, is asking the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to surrender. That traitor, along with the other servile ADO [Opposition Democratic Alliance], is asking the people to surrender, asking this of the patriotic FDP, who will never surrender. We will not surrender.

They think that with this attack they will make us yield. They are afraid, they are desperate. They would like to capture Noriega without killing civilians. Well, I think we will not let this defeat come cheap. This will be their defeat, this will be their defeat because the eyes of the world are on them. The world has its eyes on this atrocity they want to commit.

Panamanian people, I have always said that we are winning this war, and at this moment we are winning it. No surrender. We must remain on our feet. Everyone must look for their support groups. The Dignity Battalions already know where and how they must meet; the CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] and all the patriotic Panamanians must occupy their trenches to defend what is ours, and what no one will be able to take from us.

Onward Panamanian people, keep your spirits and hearts up. Let us remember our martyrs and heroes who have made it possible for us to have this nation that today we want to see free. The United States wants to turn us into a colony, and they are being supported by traitors like Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon Caderon [a play on words; caderon is the Spanish for a person with large hips], and [Guillermo] Ford. We will not let them. Continue fighting. Let us keep our hearts beating. If we must fire, and we do not have a weapon at hand, then we will use our hearts, our fists, our nails, our arms. And he who has a weapon, get it ready and use it because the time of truth has come. This is the time of truth.

My beloved fellow countrymen, the time has come when the bloodthirsty empire wishes to impose its will, however, all of Latin America and the world are already repudiating this action. I have been listening to Radio Cadena Caracol in Colombia and the commentator was already talking against this criminal action of the U.S. Government. Therefore, we will continue onward. I will keep in touch with this station to continue talking to the people, to continue doing all I can do to guide the people so that we will continue the struggle so that we will not be brought to our knees.

Let us remember Omar Torrijos. This is the moment of truth, this is the moment of glory for us. Always on our feet, never on our knees. Onward Panamanian people!

### 'Resistance Network' Reports Actions in Colon

*PA2012075089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0715 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Traitors shall not pass. Traitors shall not pass. Guillermo Endara Galimany, traitor and murderer of these people, is talking now through mobile communications vehicles that have been commandeered by the Southern Command, the Yankees, the imperialists. Panamanians, the Yankees are applying clauses of the Geneva Treaties to us. From this resistance network, we are telling the Yankees that we want peace. We do not want this type of action. Let this operation cease because it has already resulted in the deaths of many Panamanians. Come in Quiroz.

This is Quiroz. We have just established a resistance network centered on Radio Nacional. We are in a position to report to our dear listeners and patriots that we are being invaded by U.S. troops who simultaneously attacked Panama Defense Forces [FDP] positions and the civilian population in Colon. Installations attacked are the Cavalry Squadron, the Panamanian Air Force, and several areas protected by the FDP.

We are hereby reporting that Endara is using some channels that have been interfered with by Southern Command troops and their sophisticated equipment. Repeat. The central FDP headquarters is being shelled with heavy artillery by the U.S. Army. We are asking the population to remain calm, but to resist because we will not permit the sovereignty and dignity of the homeland to be blemished by U.S. troops.

### Flames, Heavy Smoke Seen at FDP Headquarters

*PA2012075789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0747 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Huge flames and a thick column of smoke can be seen this morning at the central headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], in the old quarter of the capital, where General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's head of government, has his offices.

Hundreds of residents are fleeing from the El Chorrillo neighborhood, where the headquarters are located, toward other parts of the capital.

The area has been subjected to intense shelling from heavy artillery ever since a U.S. military intervention begin at midnight.

### Diplomatic Sources Say Interior Airports Bombed

*PA2012080389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0750 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Witnesses reported that the Paitilla Airport in Panama City was bombed early this morning by the U.S. Army.

European diplomatic sources added that other airports in the interior of the country were also made unusable by the U.S. Air Force.

It has not been possible to learn whether the main airport, the General Omar Torrijos International Airport, 25 km from Panama City, has also been attacked.

## Actions of Dignity Battalions, Defense Committees

### Regrouping for 'Guerrilla Operations'

*PA2012082289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0751 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian militiamen trained and armed by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commanded by General Manuel Antonio Noriega "are regrouping to begin urban guerrilla operations in the capital, as a means of facing up to the U.S. intervention, according to a government source.

Eyewitnesses have seen groups of heavily armed militiamen, belonging to the Dignity Battalions and the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity in different parts of the capital.

The militiamen were called to arms by Panamanian Government media when a U.S. military attack began at midnight on Tuesday night against the main FDP garrisons.

### 'Guarding Areas' on Streets

*PA2012082889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0815 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Report by Radio Nacional Director Ruben Dario Murgas]

[Text] At this moment the Panamanian nation is being invaded. I wish to inform you that I have not been able to reach the Radio Nacional station because when I was driving in that direction the Dignity Battalions took my car. The Dignity Battalions are on the streets of Panama City guarding the areas and protecting them inch by inch. We cannot give you more details about what is happening, but if we can, we will continue to report to Radio Nacional, the network of freedom.

Be calm and have faith in God at this moment when the Panamanian homeland has been invaded. We believe that these are difficult times Panama is facing and it must help us stop, think, and achieve the so much desired national unity. The defense of the homeland at this moment comes first. No Panamanian can allow his flag to be trampled despite the reason and much less because of the arrogance of the stronger against the weaker.

We will be with you again soon. I understand that some communiques have been released by the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and I ask you, Santiago [news director Santiago Quiroz], to get the communique and read it as soon as possible.

### Alert Raised to 'Code Sovereignty'

*PA2012134189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1253 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone message to the Dignity Battalions and CODEPADI, Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity, by Dignity Battalions Commander Benjamin Colamarco—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, leaders of this nationalist struggle. This morning has shown all the Panamanians that it is necessary to join our nationalist and patriotic efforts to repel this shameless, brutal, and genocidal aggression launched by the U.S. Army. We must stress that since from the very beginning of the attack, the patriotic, civilian, and voluntary members of the Dignity Battalions and CODEPADI immediately went to their assigned areas and quickly reacted to the heavy firing and bombing by the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army opened fire with rockets, bombs, heavy weapons, and all of its military power against innocent Panamanian civilians and against civilian vehicles.

Comrade brigade members, it is necessary that we continue to resist under Code Sovereignty, Code Sovereignty [Clave Soberania] and that we set up the necessary control posts around the country to defend our territorial integrity. We are prepared to do this.

Members of the CODEPADI and government employees, go to your offices to do your jobs.

We must stress the heroic resistance of the members of the Dignity Battalions, CODEPADI and Panama Defense Forces. They have carried out heroic efforts in the reverted area, along Martyrs Avenue, at the Legislative Palace at the moment of the tactical withdrawal. We must stress the great morale of the Panamanian brigade member, the FDP, and CODEPADI. We must praise their determination to defend the homeland despite the cost. We must praise the determination to advance, resist, and defeat this attack that has brought sorrow and mourning to the Panamanian family. The U.S. arrogance has turned on our people in an unfair manner; it has turned against innocent Panamanians who are only demanding that our national dignity be respected. All we are demanding is a free, sovereign, and independent homeland. All we are demanding is that our sovereignty be respected. All we are demanding is that the Torrijos - Carter treaties be respected.

Companeros and companeras, fellow countrymen, let us organize under Code Sovereignty. Let us find and pinpoint the important areas and prepare the national resistance. We are all fighters, we are all defenders of this nation we love, we are all important soldiers in this struggle. Let the world see the infamy and genocide of the U.S. Army. Let the world express its solidarity with us. We cannot allow this violent military action—which includes very heavy firing—to get the upper hand. We

have proven that we have been able to contain the invasion with the help of the people, with the organized strength of our FDP.

At the side of our government, the head of government, president, Executive Branch, and the people's government—they have also had their victim because we know that a El Chorrillo representative died fighting in El Chorrillo. Another member of the people's government has also been wounded.

### Many Deaths in Fighting Reported on Both Sides

*PA2012082789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0804 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (AFP)—Fighting between Panamanian and U.S. troops near the central headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces in the southwest part of the capital have resulted in "many deaths among the troops on both sides," an eyewitness from the neighborhood told AFP.

According to the witness, whose apartment is located in front of the central headquarters where General Noriega's offices are located, there has been heavy shelling at the headquarters ever since the operation began.

"It is horrible," he said. There are many "gringos and Panamanians dead."

At the time of this telephone conversation, around 0230, the U.S. soldiers "were calling on the people of the neighborhood to be calm."

### PRD's Duque Calls People To 'Resist' Invasion

*PA2012084289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0806 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statement by Carlos Duque, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, in Panama City on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] Panamanians, revolutionary friends of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], Torrijists of all the country. Tonight is a night of shame for U.S. imperialism. Yet it is a night of dignity and pride for the Panamanian people, who are heroically resisting in every neighborhood of the city the aggression of U.S. imperialism. I have a message from the PRD president and members of the National Executive Commission addressed to the party rank and file.

The message is a call to go out into the streets and resist the U.S. Army invasion. It will not be easy for them to take Panama City or any other city in the country. They will have to fight us inch by inch, street by street, neighborhood by neighborhood. Ten Yankees will fall for every one of our men who fall. Not a step backward is the slogan. We will not be defeated. General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces and head of the revolutionary government, is in a fighting stance with all of the country's vital forces.

Panamanian women, Dignity Battalions, we will resist tonight, tomorrow, and every day, as long as necessary because we have the dignity of a people who want to be free. No imperialist bullet will be able to topple us. This is Omar's party. We are willing to shed every drop of our blood. But we will resist, resist, and win. The empire shall not pass in Panama. The peoples of America will react with force to this invasion by the Yankee imperialism.

### U.S. Soldiers Take Over Televisora Nacional

*PA2012084989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0812 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (AFP)—U.S. soldiers have controlled Televisora Nacional, the leading government television station, since 0230, it was learned in Panama City, 2 hours after the U.S. military operation started in Panama City.

Televisora Nacional, which methodically supported the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, is owned by Carlos Duque, government presidential candidate in the May elections and personal friend of the country's "strong man."

### Radio Says U.S. Occupies Legislative Palace

*PA2012085189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0820 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Live telephone report by Rafael Silva]

[Text] Listeners of the resistance network, Radio Nacional listeners. We are somewhere in the city reporting on what is happening as a result of this cruel and atrocious invasion by the United States.

Listeners from around the country, at this moment in Panama City, sporadic shots from heavy artillery can be heard. The U.S. troops have occupied the Legislative Palace. The Legislative Palace has been occupied by murderous North American troops. They are there with their armored personnel carriers, their armed Hummer's, and their tracked vehicles, firing on this defenseless people.

We can also tell you that the Dignity Battalions are firmly defending our integrity as a sovereign and independent country. This is a country that wants peace. Why is it that, at this precise moment, the United States, accompanied by its traitors [words indistinct] Christmas days that we were going to enjoy, but with this U.S. action—they have threatened to continue their operation, a synchronized operation in which they have interfered with the media to call on the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] soldiers. But the FDP soldiers defend the homeland because our dignity and freedom must be respected. Our freedom comes first; Panama comes first.

The gringos made a mistake with Panama; they made a mistake with this country. No more killings, Yankee animal.

### Air Force Headquarters 'Destroyed' by U.S.

*PA2012090389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0830 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (AFP)—U.S. Air Force planes and helicopters early this morning bombarded the Panamanian Air Force (FAP) installations in the area of the Omar Torrijos International Airport, 30 kms southeast of the capital, according to civilian sources.

In a telephone communication, inhabitants of the Tocumen area indicated that early this morning, "many heavy" explosions were heard at the FAP installations.

"The FAP headquarters was apparently destroyed," according to the source, who could not say whether the international airport building sustained any damage in the attack.

### Republican Party Expresses Support for Noriega

*PA2012085889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0835 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Communique issued by Jose Young, representative of the Republican Party Directorate, in Panama City on 20 December—live]

[Text] The Republican Party condemns the atrocious and murderous invasion our fatherland is suffering at the hands of the U.S. Army. The party urges all Panamanians to set aside their differences and unite in the struggle to defend Panama.

The Republican Party throws its full support behind General Noriega at this time when all Panamanians feel the grief and sadness of seeing our fatherland under attack.

[Signed] Jose Young, representative of the Republican Party's National Directorate.

### Official Sends Support Message for Noriega

*PA2012093889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0839 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone message from Elvia Miranda de Ortiz, director of the Panamanian Institute of Special Rehabilitation, IPHE—live]

[Text] Good evening. I hereby call on the men and women, on all the patriots. It is necessary that all of us who have waged this nationalist struggle remain calm but alert. We know that we must leave for our children and future generations a free and sovereign homeland. In light of the arrogance of the great empire, the world is agreeing with us, and, as our general [Manuel Antonio Noriega] said, we must give even the last drop of our blood. We ask the Panamanian people to remain calm. Panama has been a country with much peace and much heart. Panama is a country of honest men and women; men and women who want to live and die here. We will not yield to the internal traitors. We will not yield to the empire. Each of us must assume our position. Each of us must resist. Each of us must show the invader that the world is at our side, that we are right. When you are right, you fight to the end.

I call on the Panamanian teacher, that man or woman who is responsible for giving the student a free and sovereign homeland, to join this struggle for the defense of national dignity at this time of terrible mourning for our people and our sovereign struggle. I call on all the men with a free heart, those men who do not want our country to become another star on the American flag: Unite; let us form a common front. The general said it: There is no bullet that can kill an ideal, and we are not going to be defeated.

### Panamenist Urges Opposition To Repel Actions

*PA2012091989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0846 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone message by Gaspar "Toty" Suarez of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party—live]

[Text] We are asking all Panamanian patriots, even of the opposition, to repel this intervention. We are reporting to all Panamanians that we, the patriotic forces have the entire country under control. These bastards and murderers, headed by son of a bitch George Bush, only hit two or three garrisons. They have been unable to advance any farther. The loyal troops, the glorious Defense Forces, have pulled back to some sectors with CODEPADI's [Committees for the Defense of the Homeland and Dignity], the Dignity Battalions, and the Black Berets throughout the country and are resisting to the end.

We are asking Panamanians to come out to defend the regime and the Panamanian people with all the patriotism and love for this homeland, which we inherited from distinguished men. We are asking the Panamanian people to remain firm and prevent the recalcitrant group of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] from doing anything on the streets. We will repel them.

All Panamanians, of COLINA [National Liberation Coalition], ADOC, and all groups: This is a problem with the U.S. Army, not among Panamanians. Join us and let us settle our own problems. Until always, Panamanians. We continue forward as victors.

## Hostage Situation in Panama City; Number Unknown

### U.S., French Citizens Taken Hostage

*PA2012091289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0857 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (AFP)—Civilian sources have reported that Panamanian Army soldiers reportedly took hostage six U.S. citizens and four French citiziens, as well as an unknown number of correspondents who were staying at the exclusive Marriott Hotel in Panama City.

Even though in the beginning it was reported that the Marriott Hotel had been occupied by U.S. troops, a hotel employee informed the press, via telephone, that the hotel had been occupied by members of the Panamanian elite Macho de Monte Battalion.

"They came in and took six U.S. citizens, four French citizens, as well as a group of correspondents, hostage," the informant said. However, he was not able to identify the hostages.

The report has not been confirmed by the press because of the difficulties and dangers encountered in moving around the city, which is the scene of heavy fighting between U.S. and Panamanian troops.

### Kidnapping of 12 U.S. Citizens Reported

*PA2012093189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0908 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A group of armed Panamanian civilians have kidnapped 12 U.S. citizens who were in the main hotel in the capital, shortly after a U.S. military intervention began early this morning, according to eyewitnesses.

The heavily armed civilians entered the Marriot Hotel, took the Americans from their rooms and moved them to an unknown destination.

The Panamanian Government and Armed Forces warned in late November that if the United States launched an action against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, they "would not answer for" the safety of U.S. residents in this country, or of Panamanian opposition leaders.

Other sources indicated that some opposition members have been detained by militiamen of the "Dignity Battalions," trained and armed by the FDP [Panama Defense Forces], although this information could not be confirmed.

### FDP Holding 40 U.S. Citizens

*PA2012120489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1138 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Interview with Panama Defense Forces Major Caballero by unidentified reporter—live]

[Text] [Caballero] This is a message for the North Americans. Many U.S. citizens have been detained. More than 40 North Americans are in the hands of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and, listen well, if the attacks on our neighborhoods continue, these people are in the hands of the FDP.

Here we have the passport that belongs to James William Thurnan from Florida; Donald Alexander Davis from California; and Jimmy Samuel Miller. Here we have another passport that was seized with the rest of the documents. We repeat 41 [as heard] North Americans are in the hands of the FDP's special forces. They were detained early this morning. They were driving around the city in rented vehicles.

[Reporter] Maj Caballero, what is the situation like in the city?

[Caballero] We wish to advise the people that we have total control over the city. The report that we are holding North Americans is true, and if the U.S. troops continue to advance, they will be able to see this for themselves. We are determined to die for Panama and for our commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

[Voices in the background heard shouting "Long live Panama!"]

### 20 Americans Taken From Hotel

*PA2012125689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1225 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Comments by reporters Ruben Dario Murgas and Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] [Murgas] Here is some last-minute news. The Special Forces report the arrest of 20 more U.S. citizens, who were captured in a hotel. They had 41, and now they have arrested 21 more U.S. citizens, who are being held hostage—a total of 61.

Therefore, Washington already knows this.

[Martinez] If seven hostages in Beirut got the United States upset and led Reagan to commit the disastrous acts of giving weapons to Iran and violating his artificial antiterrorist policy, what will the United States do now that there are 61 of them?

Let the United States know: We have arrested 61 U.S. citizens, and they are being held hostage here in the Republic of Panama.

### FDP Information Chief Reports on Situation

*PA2012113389 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0909 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone interview with Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, director of information and public relations of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, by Pablo Bosquez of a Mexican television network—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Lopez] ... and invited a few months ago to a tour of Televisa and Eco. When I was in Mexico recently, I spoke to him over the telephone to greet him.

[Bosquez] What is your post, Major Lopez Grimaldo?

[Lopez] Director of information and public relations of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

[Bosquez] Where are you, Major?

[Lopez] Somewhere in Panama City.

[Bosquez] Could you tell us what is going on? Is there any fighting?

[Lopez] What is happening, my friend Bosquez, Mexican people, and the world listening to us, is what was feared but could not believe would happen. We thought there still remained reasonable people with a sense of humanness governing the big northern power. At approximately 0115 today, the treacherous night actions by the U.S. troops stationed in Panama killed...

[Bosquez, interrupting] Go ahead. Tell us what is happening. Major, I am listening.

[Lopez, continuing] ... a sentry near the FDP headquarters where Gen Noriega's office is usually located. Once the sentry was killed, the troops with heavy artillery, including grenade launchers and bazookas, spread out to the Martyrs Avenue, formerly known as 4th of July Avenue. They attacked the Central FDP headquarters, naturally with no warning. At the same time, U.S. Air Force armed Cobra helicopters bombed the FDP installations, where there is not a single armed helicopter or plane because the headquarters is not an offensive installation. Simultaneously, they attacked the FDP barracks in Colon and destroyed it, as well as the military airports in Panama City. In addition, an AM radio station broadcast the voice of Guillermo Endara Galimany, presidential candidate in the May elections, who asked the Panamanian people to remain calm because, he said, the United States is offering peace—the objective is to remove from power and annihilate Gen Noriega—and because the fighting is not against the FDP or the Panamanian people. Furthermore, the signal of Televisora Nacional is being interfered with by the image of the U.S. Defense Department shield. A voice is heard, obviously not of a Spanish-speaking person, but surely of a Yankee who speaks Spanish very well, perhaps a Puerto Rican. This person lectured the people and asked them to stay in their homes because the U.S. Armed Forces will do everything possible to oust Noriega and, allegedly, his gang of criminals. There are dead people and many wounded at the emergency ward of the Santo Tomas Hospital. The Dignity Battalions hurriedly took up key positions. The FDP erected roadblocks with the few armored personnel carriers they have to meet the overwhelming power confronting us. This is the current situation.

The serious and gloomy thing here is that a White House spokesman, whose statements were relayed by the Southern Command Network, the mouthpiece of the Southern Command, said that all OAS member countries agree with the invasion. This is the clamor of people being invaded and who could be massacred in a sort of genocide worst than in the time of Hitler. My dear friend Bosquez, this is the situation, briefly outlined.

[Bosquez] Major, is Gen Noriega commanding the troops?

[Lopez] Gen Noriega is also somewhere in the country, the exact location of which cannot be disclosed for security reasons. Naturally, he is in command. He has not been taken prisoner.

[Bosquez] Major? Major Lopez Grimaldo?

[Lopez] Yes?

[Bosquez] Gen Noriega has not been taken prisoner?

[Lopez] No, Gen Noriega has not been taken prisoner because our intelligence service had warned us of the result of the events in the past 72 hours when Yankees violently overran a roadblock near the central headquarters and provoked a shooting in which three civilians, including a 1 and 1/2-year-old baby, were wounded and a U.S. captain [as heard] in civilian clothes was killed.

Subsequently, on 18 December, another incident occurred when a moving car passing somewhere near the headquarters fired at point blank range at a soldier whose surname is Tejada, also wounding him. It has also been reported, my friend that Mr Bush and his spokesmen say that Panama had declared war on the United States, which is totally false and (?laughable). The Assembly of Representatives, which recently chose Gen Noriega as head of government spoke of a state of war, of a state of emergency; the assembly did not talk about a declaration of war against the United States. It is totally childish to believe that Panama can declare war on the United States, when the United States has 25,000 armed men in Panama. The United States has all sorts of war equipment, missiles, etc., etc., in Panama.

[Bosquez] Maj Lopez Grimaldo, why did Mr Bush invoke war laws to sanction Panama recently, especially after the latest decision that no Panamanian-flagged ships can enter U.S. ports?

[Lopez] In response to this emergency situation, in response to this aggression, which increased everyday, closing around the Panamanian people, the Assembly of Representatives declared a state of war, a state of emergency, and required Gen Noriega to pilot the national ship toward a course that would free us from this state of emergency, from the U.S. war sanctions.

The United States has used that subterfuge to invade us. Panama has been invaded, there are U.S. tanks along the entire periphery of the central headquarters and other military installations. People have been killed, others wounded. Half an hour ago, a corregimiento representative's body was brought to the emergency ward of the

Santo Tomas hospital. He was a member of the 510 and his surname was Torregrosa. This is the situation and everything seems to indicate that the troops are going to totally occupy the capital city, the city of Colon, and the leading cities in the country. They will exert more fury and cruelty than was applied in Santo Domingo in 1965, and than they did in Grenada even more recently.

[Bosquez] Maj Lopez Grimaldo, are you watching the Eco [not further identified] signal?

[Lopez] No, unfortunately I am not seeing it, my friend.

[Bosquez] As director of Panama's Armed Forces information and public relations, if could you contact Gen Noriega, or if he could call us on the same number that you called, a great deal of the situation could be explained. I hope that will be possible.

[Lopez] Right. The fact, the evident, dramatic, pathetic fact which is currently taking place is that we are faced with U.S. troops who are passive, but who, instead, have totally offensive attitudes. They destroyed the central headquarters installation believing that Gen Noriega was inside. Fortunately, Gen Noriega is not there, he is in some other part of the country, and in control of the situation, with all the disadvantages that exist, of course.

[Bosquez] Thank you for your call, Maj Lopez Grimaldo.

[Lopez] Should anything else emerge I will call you, my friend.

[Bosquez] I will be watching how the situation evolves. Thank you, major.

[Lopez] Thanks to you.

### Hospital Reports Receiving 'First 50' Bodies

*PA2012103189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0933 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN - EFE)— The bodies of 50 people have been brought to the Santo Tomas Hospital in the Panamanian capital early this morning, as a result of the U.S. military intervention, according to doctors at the hospital.

"We believe that many more have been killed, but the ambulances have not been able to return because of the continuous shelling," a doctor who asked not to be identified said. He added that he did not know how many victims had been taken to other hospitals.

Jose Leonardo Diaz, director of the Santo Tomas Hospital, confirmed the first 50 dead and said that he does not have enough personnel or medicine to attend to the wounded.

Meanwhile, sources from within the government and the hospital itself said that one of the dead is Gustavo Torreglosa, representative of El Chorrillo Corregimiento, where the headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces is located.

The wounded included Ramon Ashby, another parliamentarian, who was one of the main promoters of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's appointment as Panama's head of government on Friday.

### U.S. Embassy Reportedly Hit; No Casualties

*PA2012101089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0948 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Panama City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)— The U.S. Embassy in Panama "was hit by fire" from unspecified weapons early this morning in the course of the attack launched by U.S. troops against the main Panamanian headquarters, "but there have been no casualties or major property damage," according to a diplomatic source.

The source added that it has not been possible to determine where the "fire" that hit the embassy came from.

U.S. Army troops and armed vehicles have surrounded the embassy and are protecting it.

### PPR Party Issues Communique Supporting Noriega

*PA2012103889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0950 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Communique issued by the Revolutionary Panamenist Party's faction No. 1 (Bando No. 1) in Panama City; read by People's Party spokesman Carlos Nunez]

[Text] The Political Committee of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR], headed by its president, Luis Gaspar Toty Suarez, calls on all Panamanian people to resist the savage aggression by the Yankee Army that began at approximately 0030 [0530 GMT] on Wednesday, 20 January.

2. Together with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], the Black Berets, Dignity Battalions, CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], the local and communal juntas, and all the patriotic people who have taken to the streets in an organized manner to resist, street by street, inch by inch, and place by place, the Yankee invasion and to remove the genocidal and murderous invaders from our homeland.

3. The PPR strongly supports the political and military leadership of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the patriotic forces and head of government, and the FDP soldiers and rank and file, who are at the head of the Panamanian patriotic army against the U.S. military invasion.

4. The PPR calls on all the political sectors of the country, without social, partisan, or religious distinction, to unite at this time to protect our homeland. Our differences are not that serious in light of the huge crime that the Yankee Army has committed against the poor people of El Chorrillo. The Yankee Army murdered

companero Gustavo Torreglosa, El Chorrillo corregimiento representative, and hundreds of Panamanians in that densely populated area.

The PPR follows a single line. We will not surrender despite Bush's threats or military aggression. On the contrary, we will continue fighting the invader until he has been removed from our homeland.
[Signed] Luis Gaspar Toty Suarez, president
Jose Napoleon Ruiz, vice president
Bernardo Dominguez, vice president
Francisco Puente, secretary general
Javier Lopez, deputy secretary general and head of the Black Berets

### Journalist Leader Rejects Invasion; Seeks Help

*PA2012115889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1009 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statements by telephone by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, secretary general of the Journalists Association, from the shores of the canal on 20 December—live]

[Text] This is Baltazar Renan Aizpurua from the shores of the canal. At 0000, the U.S. invasion against our country began. On many occasions I had warned that George Bush's criminal government was preparing to establish a puppet government, thereby destroying the pledges made in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The indiscriminate shooting and the widespread firing of large artillery from Quarry Heights against the central headquarters installations, located in the civilian area of the Chorrillo neighborhood, set several houses on fire and destroyed part of the headquarters.

Nevertheless, Panamanian troops deployed themselves to the headquarters area and have resisted U.S. troops in a most remarkable manner. Meanwhile, the U.S troops, using their tanks and Hummer vehicles, are firing at point-blank range at any building they believes serves as cover for Panamanian resistance troops. U.S. troops have bombed the areas surrounding the headquarters and flown helicopters over it to illuminate, search, and comb the area for Panamanian policemen in Panamanian territorial areas such as the reverted areas, which are under Panamanian jurisdiction.

The intervention is totally shameless and unjustified. It was carried out in an artful, cowardly, and criminal manner, in the darkness of night, with the expectation that the Panamanians would not see the dawning of a new day, a new day of freedom.

I have been informed, here on the shores of the canal, that the Panamanian people are resisting as much as necessary, the only way possible; they must destroy the plans of George Bush and his clique of criminals who are currently in the White House, and those of the criminal falcons Cisneros and Thurman.

I would like to make a very special plea. I do not know if this will be the last time you will hear the voice of your servant, Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, current secretary general of the journalists and director of the "Liberation Trails" program. My plea is the following:

Panamanians, you must fight until the end. You must assert the slogan "For Panama our lives." I must also make an international plea: We do not want the solidarity of messages. We want specific solidarity. If Panamanians are defending Latin America and the Third World, the revolutionary forces of the world should respond to that struggle. All U.S. properties are targets, which must be destroyed. Here in Panama we must wage a house-to-house, street-by-street battle. They will not be able to bend the will and patriotic firmness of this people who want to bequeath a free country to future generations. This is my message. My thanks to Radio Nacional.

### Government Communique Urges People To Unite

*PA2012105489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1014 GMT 20 Dec 89*

["National Government Communique" issued in Panama City on 20 December; read by Santiago Quiroz, Radio Nacional news director]

[Text] Communique to the people:

The Panamanian Government, the commander in chief, his general staff, and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers and rank and file report that, despite the treacherous military intervention by U.S. soldiers that indiscriminately, and without distinction, has caused the deaths of civilians and soldiers and much destruction, the interior of the country and important areas of the capital city are under the control of the government. We are also firm in our fighting positions. The strong response of our glorious FDP, the Dignity Battalions, the CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], and the popular movement as a whole, has been able to halt the brutal Yankee attack.

Our government has also called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting so that, with its active participation, it can stop the shedding of the noble and generous blood of the Panamanian people. The people, despite their political and ideological beliefs, are invited to join this patriotic action to confront the aggression and defend, inch by inch, the dignity of our territory that has been stained today.
For Panama, our lives!
Not a single step backward!

### Havana Reports Heavy Resistance to U.S. Attack

*FL2012114189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1032 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone interview with Delfin Perez, adviser at the Cuban Embassy in Panama, from Panama City by Luis Perez—live]

[Text] [Luis Perez] Delfin, good morning.

[Delfin Perez] Good morning.

[Luis Perez] Delfin, what is the situation in Panama at this time?

[Delfin Perez] The situation is very complex, Perez. There is fighting in practically all of Panama City. According to the reports we have, the U.S. attack began on the headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. The FDP has resisted tenaciously. Reports we have from political figures and from the government who have called or contacted the radio network established by the Panamanian power is that the resistance is tenacious. The Dignity Battalions are getting organized and they are fighting together with the FDP.

A few moments ago, the Panamanian national radio broadcast a Panamanian Government communique signed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega telling the population that he and the rest of the FDP officers and troops and the Dignity Battalions are facing the enemy, that they are regrouping to continue fighting and resisting the U.S. attack. This information is being carried continuously by the national radio in network with several other radio stations.

We also have learned that other places have been attacked such as airports. The area where the FDP main headquarters is located was also attacked, it was bombed by U.S. planes and armed troops. Resistance there has been tenacious. The radio is carrying reports now—we cannot confirm them but I am giving you the public reports we have received—that they have been able to repel the fighting in El Chorrillo area, which is a very poor sector where the abuse of the U.S. troops has caused large fires. As I said, this is a poor area with wooden houses constructed when the canal was built. We have also received information from the hospitals saying that dozens of injured and dead have been brought to the hospitals. This is the situation we have here, more or less.

In the interior of the country, according to some people who have communicated with national radio, it was reported that Santiago Nogales is under the control of government forces, although U.S. troops have also attacked some quarters in the outskirts of Panama City.

This is the situation up to now. There is tenacious resistance. We can hear the bombing, shooting. Even in our area, where the embassy is located—it is equidistant from the fighting—we can hear the shooting, bombing. There is heavy fighting.

[Luis Perez] Is the Yankee air force flying over the city?

[Delfin Perez] Yes, it is flying over the city.

[Luis Perez] Well, Delfin....

[Delfin Perez, interrupting] We have received information that they have attacked the Omar Torrijos International Airport, another airport in the center of the city.

[Luis Perez] They have attacked all the places where FDP resistance to the U.S. attack can be organized, is that correct?

[Delfin Perez] Yes. The FDP communique that Noriega signed, which I previously mentioned, says that they are in secure places and they are fighting and directing the activities to confront the attack.

[Luis Perez] A very important thing, Delfin, that you told us about is the organization of the resistance battalions. Did Panama's national radio mention this?

[Delfin Perez] Yes, of course. From everything we've heard, the battalions have organized and responded to the call and they are fighting together with the FDP.

[Luis Perez] Well Delfin, it seems that this information that you have given us is very current. I would ask you the following for the information of the "Haciendo Radio" program: If you will allow me, I would like to contact you within a half hour. May I?

[Delfin Perez] Of course, as long as the communications hold up.

[Luis Perez] Of course. Thank you very much, Comrade Delfin Perez.

### Havana Radio Reports on Fighting in Capital

*FL2012120289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1101 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone interview with Cuban correspondent Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City by Alberto Perez—live]

[Text] [Perez] Nelson, if you are listening, good morning.

[Notario] Good morning Alberto, good morning. I can hear you very well. How can you hear me?

[Perez] Very well. How are things going in Panama? Tell me.

[Notario] I am going to recount the events. Fighting began at 0045 this Wednesday. The United States began invading the small isthmian country. This invasion was announced so many times and denounced so many times. Before midnight, U.S. troops positioned themselves in various strategic points of the area turned over to Panamanian control. Isolated shots were heard. Shelling on Panama Defense Forces [FDP] positions began at around 0045. Around 0130, we tried to go to the area near the main headquarters. We also attempted to reach the area shortly after but it was impossible. A cloud of smoke and huge flames were coming out of the headquarters. We had practically the only vehicle on the streets at that time and we were a direct target for any person either protecting Panama's security or one of the invaders.

At that time, along Central and Balboa Avenues, thousands of poor residents of El Chorrillo—many of them

women with young children on their arms—ran seeking shelter. It was a truly terrifying scene. Meanwhile, the city continues in patriot hands. Alberto, note that I do not want to have a false sense of triumph, I do not want this to be interpreted as a false sense of triumph when I say that the city continues in the hands of patriots. The U.S. troops have not penetrated the city to a large extent. They have been carrying out artillery attacks using mortars, cannons, and aircraft to soften positions. This is why there is a large number of wounded and dead. I am going to refer to the subject now.

I believe that the point furthest away from the city, which is in enemy hands, is the Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport. Heavy fighting took place between U.S. Infantry and patriot units and [words indistinct] units composed of FDP regular forces supported by the Dignity Battalions.

I also wanted to say that although it has not been confirmed, everything seems to indicate that there was shelling over the military area of the Tocumen airport, that is, over the military area of the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport. I was saying that, in the meantime, the city continues to be in the hands of patriots.

The Panamanian national radio, which has continued to broadcast in network with Radio Soberana, has made a call to all the countries in the world to demand that the United States end the attack being carried out with cannons, mortars, and aircraft. The United States has been using artillery and aircraft in an attempt to provoke a collapse of the Panamanian Government. This has not happened.

The Panamanian national radio states that there is a high toll of dead and wounded. Other sources report that 50 bodies and an undetermined number of wounded have arrived at the Santo Tomas public hospital alone.

Comrades, what the United States is doing in Panama at this time is criminal.

The Democratic Revolutionary Party and the Revolutionary Panamenist Party, the party led by Gaspar "Toty" Suarez, are calling people to take to the streets to defend the national government. Before the U.S. attack took place, the Dignity Battalions, the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity, CODEPADI, and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] special units, were on a state of maximum alert.

Mr Guillermo Endara, former presidential candidate, made a radio address. He asked to be recognized as legitimate president of the republic and urged the people, who are being massacred at this time, to celebrate the triumph within a few hours. Yankee troops have practically destroyed the FDP main garrison, the cavalry garrison, the Paitilla Airport control tower—apparently to prevent the FDP from receiving reinforcements—a garrison at the Atlantic city of Colon, and there are rumors that the military installations of the Tocumen airport in areas of the Omar Torrijos International Airport were attacked, as I mentioned a few moments ago.

The U.S. forces, their soldiers and infantry, have carried out some strikes but have not penetrated deep into the city territory with the only exception I know so far of the Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport, which is some 30 km [corrects himself] approximately 25 km from downtown Panama.

Everything seems to indicate that they used another way to get there. Local television channel 2, which was on the air, has been blocked. Its signal has been used to broadcast, over a logo of the U.S. Defense Department, calls to the FDP asking them to surrender. In addition, some U.S. media are insistently carrying reports that have no reason. The first one is that the declaration of a state of war made by Panama some days ago, on 14 December, when General Manuel Antonio Noriega took over the post as chief of government, was a war declaration against the United States. This is absolutely false. The United States declared war on Panama approximately 2 years ago. The declaration of a state of war made by Panama is a defensive declaration. In addition, there have been rumors that 24 hours ago the FDP had detected [corrects himself] that is, the U.S. intelligence forces had detected a FDP attempt to destroy the Panama Canal. This also is totally false. This is, it is an excuse used to justify this attack on, this massacre of the Panamanian people.

I want to tell you that bullets have not only entered the bodies of patriot Panamanians who have resisted the U.S. invasion here. Bullets have also entered U.S. bodies, invader bodies.

Everything seems to indicate that the United States was attempting to achieve an easy collapse of the government of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, as chief of the government, and President Francisco Rodriguez, by artillery attack using cannons, mortars, and aircraft to soften areas. However, the resistance is organized, special posts are deployed throughout the city and it is not known when the fighting could end, if the United States could desist on its attack, or if international pressure stops it.

Calls are made continuously to all countries of the world to increase solidarity with Panama. At this time more than ever, Panama needs the solidarity of all the countries of the world. Panama is asking the countries of the world to stop this U.S. troop criminal attack.

This is all I have, Alberto. At this time, the PML—it is in English, you specialize in that language, I don't—it says, Personnel Movement Limited [preceding three words in English]. That is, the PML being carried by the Southern Command's channel 8 says that ECO alert continues. ECO alert is the declaration of war. This has been aired since 0045. Shelling started and this alert began. This is all I have for you Alberto. We will stay in contact.

I want to tell you that due to the confusion reigning in the city and the darkness of the night—more the latter than the former—we have not been able to film anything because this attack took place at night. We are waiting for the sun to come out to see the deployment of the military forces and see the damages. If fighting is still going on we will film it.

### Statement by First Vice President Calderon

*PA2012142989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1102 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statement by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon by telephone; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Arias Calderon] People of the Republic: We are living in tragedy, but it is a tragedy full of hope. We all know that we have been waging a long and persistent struggle against General Noriega's dictatorship so we can live in democracy. We have made great sacrifices in this struggle. There have been numerous dead, wounded, tortured, and exiled. We have sustained a disastrous socioeconomic crisis, which has hurt all of us because of the dictatorship. As part of this long and tenacious struggle, on 7 May we, the Panamanian people, took our destiny in our own hands and voted for democracy and against the dictatorship. We elected Guillermo Endara for president by an overwhelming majority, as the Panamanian Catholic Church and more than 300 international observers have acknowledged.

The dictatorship, however, tried to annul the elections, impose unconstitutional governments, and then give General Noriega absolute dictatorial powers. All this flagrantly violates our constitution. The situation became intolerable. Our people have exhausted their peaceful means for struggle and have sometimes been on the verge of despair. Our nation was in serious danger of going astray from the course leading to a fully Panamanian canal. All of this because of the dictatorship of a single man who could save the entire people and the nation just by resigning. Tonight we were informed that the United States had decided to take determined action to help us overcome this great obstacle in the way of the Panamanian people's happiness and freedom and the fulfillment of the nation's destiny. This obstacle was Gen. Noriega's dictatorship.

We received this grave report both with the great sense of the responsibility that this knowledge entailed and the certainty that this action, which others had decided and which was being reported to us, could help the Panamanian nation achieve its objectives. What are these objectives? We have told the U.S. President that these objectives should be those of the Panamanian people and nation and that they must take precedence above everything else. First, establish democracy immediately, fully respecting the people's will expressed on 7 May, which elected Endara president. Second, faithfully continue the process to transfer the canal to the Panamanian people in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Third, install legal order to guarantee peace and security regarding the human rights of all residents in our country, whether they are Panamanians, foreigners, Americans, or other nationalities. Fourth, reorient the Panama Defense Forces so they can assume a professional and constitutional role to support democracy under the genuine civil authority. Fifth, initiate the economic reconstruction of our country to provide for the well-being and hope of every family in our homeland. Sixth, eliminate drug trafficking in our country, including money laundering, as an essential contribution in tidying up the effort to make civic and moral values prevail.

This is what we have told those who reported the U.S. Government's decision because this decision had been made, we hoped it would serve the nation's good and nothing else. Because of this, all of us feel sorry about this night, but it makes us all harbor some hope. We pray to God Almighty and His mother, the Virgin Mary, to be with us tonight and spend the whole night thinking and assisting the Panamanian people, those who suffer the most, the poor, the women, and every Panamanian, so we can see the new day, with the sun illuminating our future and having left our nightmares behind. In this decisive, tragic, and encouraging hour, I would like to embrace every Panamanian and tell them with all my heart: I love you. We love each other. We will build a Panama where each can be the brother of the others.

### Vice President Guillermo Ford Airs Message

*PA2012120789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1111 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statements by Second Vice President Guillermo Ford by telephone; broadcast in progress; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] ... second constitutional vice president of Panama. Filled with love for the homeland and concerned over the fate of our people, we are living through the grievous moments of a state oppressed by a miserable, unforgivable military dictatorship, which will never occur again in this country—for the good of all Panamanians.

We are calling for national harmony. We assume full responsibility for the mandate with which the Panamanian people invested us on 7 May so we could initiate, once and for all, the reconstruction of this country where we were born and where we will die in peace. The presidential ticket of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] has never given up and continues to represent with dignity and decorum the pure, broad, and spontaneous mandate granted on us on 7 May. We will walk the path of peace. We wanted to avoid shedding the blood of our people. Nevertheless, a miserable, bad Panamanian had been leading us on a wrong course. Tonight, we were informed of a direct U.S. action, which disturbed us because it led to mourning and grief. We pray to God, however, that such an action can become a fresh awakening for this loved homeland. I have a

message of love and harmony, so we can dispel revenge or hatred. I have a message to the FDP so they can change their minds and stop supporting this bad Panamanian. As I said in my political campaign, we should create a better Panama, a free Panama, from the dust. Because we have been sworn in with two able witnesses present, as the Constitution stipulates, we will now scream at the top of our lungs: This damned thing is over!

### Garrisons Reportedly Go Over to Endara

*PA2012115189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1132 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] [Words indistinct] garrisons that have placed themselves at the orders of Panamanian President-elect Guillermo Endara Galimany: Paitilla Garrison, Gamboa Garrison, Rio Hato Garrison, [words indistinct]. We have also learned that the Panama Defense Forces general headquarters is in the hands of the U.S. troops.

We have also received confirmation that Martin Alberto Paz, spokesman of the FDP's All For the Fatherland program and Channel 4 [Panama City Circuito RPC Television] news director appointed by the Noriega regime after the television station was seized from the Eleta family, has been killed. According to statements made by witnesses and reporters Martin Alberto Paz has [words indistinct].

### Rodriguez 'Coordinating' Activities From City

*PA2012134089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1246 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statement made by telephone by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez Poveda from "a point in the city"—live]

[Text] From some point in the city, I wish to say that we are well. We have spent the entire night coordinating various activities. Above all, we wish to state that we deeply deplore the barbaric act that has been committed against the Panamanian population by the U.S. Government through its Army. This is a brutal, dastardly act, and we publicly denounce this act of barbarism to the world.

I also wish to say that we feel encouraged and heartened by the bravery and dignity of the Panamanian people. The effort, the resistance, and above all, the great bravery and valor that our people have shown in this very difficult time is truly praiseworthy, because this is symptomatic and indicative of the nationalist spirit of the Panamanian people, who do not want, under any circumstances...[changes thought]. We will not surrender. We will not falter in our determination to be free and sovereign.

We are trying to coordinate all the pertinent actions with exactly that goal in mind. Therefore, I wish to tell the people of my country to maintain that prudence and state of alert. Public officials should go to their respective institutions and also express their support and also be on a state of alert to be ready for the various actions that we will coordinate and inform you of in the course of the day.

Thank you very much.

### Radio Chief Claims Situation 'Under Control'

*LD2012140189 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] [Announcer] Ruben Murga, director of Panamanian national radio, has told us that the situation is under control and that the authorities are in control of the capital and the rest of the country:

[Begin Murga recording] The city is controlled by Panama. They tried to, they destroyed the central headquarters, the central headquarters of the National Guard, bombing it. They tried to enter the city but the National Guard did not surrender and have fought inch by inch and the streets of the city are in the hands of the Panamanian people at present. They tried to bomb other barracks but the troops took the streets and they have not been able to advance. They have not been able to leave the area they control, where they have [word indistinct] which is the canal zone. They tried to enter the most populous district of Panama, San Miguelito, and they were pushed back by the [word indistinct] forces. [end recording]

[Announcer] Luis Toty Suarez, president of the progovernment Panamanian Party, also said that the authorities are in control of the situation and that there is a certain calm with sporadic shooting, so the next few hours could be decisive.

[Begin Suarez recording] Fighting has stopped, but we are now—obviously—waiting for international reaction, especially Latin America's reaction, for the agreement of the students, of the workers, of the people of these countries to go out into the streets to denounce this savage aggression against a small and traditionally friendly country. We know that the parameters are going to change in our favor, in favor of the Panamanians, internationally and diplomatically. [end recording]

[Announcer] There is only one version shared by both the opposing sides, the United States and those loyal to General Noriega, and that is on the whereabouts of Gen. Noriega. This is what is said:

[Begin Suarez recording] Well, it is obvious. Gen. Noriega is safe because the United States' prime objective was Gen. Noriega. Therefore, he is safe and is effectively commanding the defense forces and all the people who are following him at this crucial time for the Panamanian people, but we will win. [end recording]

### Rio Hato Base Commander Supports Noriega

*PA2012135989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1308 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Telephone message by Major Jesus Daniel Riggs, chief of Military Zone 6, Cocle Province—live]

[Text] Commander Noriega, even though the [Rio Hato] base was criminally occupied and there are wounded on both sides, especially many civilian residents of Farallon, we have regrouped and continue with our prearranged plans.

Not a single step backward, Commander.

### Endara Calls for People To Remain at Home

*PA2012150089 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1414 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Statement by President Guillermo Endara—live or recorded]

[Text] This is your servant, Guillermo Endara. I come to ask you earnestly not to go to work today. Do not send your children to school. Banks and business enterprises should not open. Let us relax in our homes, in view of the situation that the country is experiencing. We ask you to remain in your homes, so it will be possible to see the people's support for the 7 May elections and those who were elected in that process.

Thank you in advance for all the support that you extend. Thank you very much.

### Further Reportage on 16 Dec, 18 Dec Incidents

#### Accusation of 'Disinformation'

*PA1912181489*

[Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1320 GMT on 19 December broadcasts live the Panama Fatherland and Woman Program of the Sole Front of Women Against Aggression, FUMCA, hosted by Zelideth Rosales and Eneida Lawson. The program lasts 40 minutes.

Rosales opens the program by announcing an event tonight to honor the Palestine people and mark the 2nd anniversary of their uprising to oust the "Zionist invaders" at the the headquarters of the Panama's Journalists Union. She also announces that the committee for the establishment of Panama-USSR diplomatic relations is holding a discussion this morning at the National University's public administration auditorium. Rosales invites listeners to attend both activities.

Regarding the status of government officials, Rosales states that the country is in a state of war, and "at this moment it needs people who really work and contribute, not people who destroy; it needs people who contribute positively to help us overcome the crisis we are facing."

Commenting on the 16 December incident involving four U.S. soldiers near the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] installations, Rosales notes that there were rumors of a clash between FDP and U.S. troops even before the incident actually took place. She claims that the cameramen who happened to be in the vicinity "must have a crystal ball allowing them to see into the future. They should waste no time and set up shop to read the future; they might make more money this way than doing dangerous work for the United States."

Rosales points out that UPI and other news agencies reported on another incident on 18 December in which a Panamanian policeman was wounded by a U.S. soldier, UPI claiming that the U.S. soldier "felt threatened when the Panamanian apparently tried to pull out his weapon." Rosales wonders why the U.S. soldier was armed if he was traveling in a private vehicle. She says that in UPI's view, "we Panamanians have no right to have police to defend Panamanians and guarantee our social safety."

She points out that these incidents reflect how disinformation works and that is is why as soon as incidents like these take place Panama must immediately report them. She notes that "we will have to work as the U.S. Armed Forces operate: They are sending information on what will supposedly happen even before the events take place—their disinformation."

Regarding Costa Rica's Radio Impacto, Rosales says that it is a "trashy radio station, but not because of its facilities, because they cost millions. I suppose that if this station is in operation it is because the Costa Rican Government has contributed funds to establish it to be used as a springboard to disinform the Panamanian people."

She states that Radio Impacto reports that there is no freedom in Panama, that Panamanians are afraid to walk the streets, and that the main shopping areas are deserted. Rosales adds that the governments of Costa Rica and other Central American countries do not care about the destitution of their people, because they "work for the United States; they are puppet governments that follow U.S. imperialism's orders and are discarded when they are no longer useful."

Rosales points out that U.S. policy against drug trafficking is hypocritical, because "the United States protects, maintains, and advocates the use of drugs, because it has used them on their troops to make them commit all kinds of war atrocities." In this regard, Lawson reads the "Fausto's Mailbox" column, which appears in a local newspaper, claiming that the incident that took place near the FDP headquarters in Chorrillo neighborhood "cannot be blamed on anything other than drugs."

Lawson expresses agreement with the conclusion that the 16 December events show that "people with common sense who are aware of their actions would not have acted as they did had they not been under the influence of drugs."

Rosales notes that some time ago a female U.S. soldier was raped and killed by her fellow soldiers at Howard Air Force Base because they had been drinking beer and taking drugs, and a female lieutenant colonel was killed when she was thrown out of a building.

She goes on to say that the soldier that the United States claims was killed and the other that it claims was wounded during the 16 December incident remain unidentified. Rosales says that U.S. soldiers are "just pawns that must do what two crazy generals, who have nothing to do and believe that they will win decorations at the expense of Panamanian blood, tell them to do." She suggests that these two generals probably also like marijuana; and that a U.S. couple, who claimed to be lost in the vicinity of the FDP headquarters, were looking for drugs for the generals.

Regarding the murder of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador, Rosales states that these murders would not go unpunished if the Salvadoran Armed Forces were not involved.

Commenting on a man who reports for Radio Impacto—the individual is not identified—Rosales claims that he is not a Panamanian and says that he does not identify himself. She adds that "this man who disinforms about Panama; this fool does not want us to celebrate Christmas; he is annoyed and sickened to see large crowds of Panamanians walking up and down Central Avenue to celebrate Christmas despite the situation. He does not want us to celebrate Christmas; instead of seeing Panamanians carrying Christmas trees home, he wants them to carry the coffins of Panamanians killed by the U.S. Army."

Regarding the Radio Impacto "disinformer," Rosales adds: "That is what the man who disinforms wants. He is not even Panamanian; my conscience tells me he is not Panamanian. I know he is not Panamanian. Futhermore, this information comes from right there, from the place that records our programs every day. It comes from all those Latin Americans who crawl, who lend themselves to and play the game of U.S. imperialism. They would also be happy to see what they have done to us, done to the people of your countries. That is what they want. The voice of the satrap is originating from the place where we are recorded every day, because a satrap is one who disinforms about events in our country. They have direct contact with Quarry Heights, where the top U.S. Armed Forces authorities are located. The information goes directly from there to Costa Rica, the cradle of democracy, which is lending its territory to slander a fraternal country because, like Judas, it is selling out for a few more coins."

Rosales points out that the "two drug-addicted madmen, who lead the drug-addicted Armed Forces, and the other one who is President, who does not bray only because he cannot, are obsessed" with Panama.

Rosales ends the program by vowing that Panamanians will continue their struggle, that they will always be on their feet or dead, but never on their knees.

### Reactions Reported

*PA1912213589*

[Editorial Report] Panama City MATUTINO, CRITICA, and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 19 December carry various reports and commentaries following the 16 December shooting incident involving U.S. military personnel near the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, headquarters in Panama City.

MATUTINO on page 4 carries an editorial of approximately 250-words entitled "George Bush's Negative Contribution to the Prestige of the United States." It states that "not pleased with his lack of respect for the dignity of other nations and with his attacks on the sovereignty of other countries, Bush has encouraged the passing of laws allowing him to act as he pleases within other nation's territories as if the entire world belonged to him." The editorial adds that one of these days he will "wake up from his dreams of nonexistent power" because sooner or later he will have to face the "harsh reality" and when this happens he will "shed tears of regret."

MATUTINO on page 1 publishes a report on a news conference held by Luis Gustavo Torreglosa, representative of El Chorrillo corregimiento, in which he publicly condemned the "traitorous armed attack perpetrated on 16 December against the populous and defenseless residents of this metropolitan area." Torreglosa added that Victoria McRae, 78, died of a heart attack during the shooting incident, which also resulted in a 1 year old girl, a civilian male, and an FDP soldier being wounded. The article ends by calling on "all the country's civic, religious, political, and cultural organizations to speak out against this new act of aggression against the defenseless people of our country and by strongly condemning these incidents before the illegal military chiefs of the Southern Command stationed in Panama."

CRITICA on page 4 carries an editorial of approximately 350-words entitled "Marc Cisneros' Ultimatums." It states that Marc Cisneros "showing off his arrogance in a loud voice, almost screaming, was cynical enough to blame the FDP for the criminal actions that took place on 16 December." The editorial adds that according to Cisneros, "Panama is the one violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and he made no less than four ultimatums of war and invasion against our country based on what he thinks are violations committed by our FDP." It adds that Marc Cisneros "is nothing more than a U.S. instrument to frighten Panama and its leaders," but he will fail because the FDP is committed to defending the national sovereignty. Finally it states that "Mr Cisneros can keep his invasion ultimatums and return them to the pigpen from where they came."

CRITICA's "Political Arena" column on page 4 carries a 600-word commentary by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, secretary general of the Journalists Union of Panama. The column is entitled "Gringo Rebel Soldiers Arrested in Canal Forts" and it states that the "harassment and provocation of the Yankee Army is part of a covert operation by a U.S. military intelligency agency." Renan Aizpurua says he bases his statement on the fact that snipers were shooting near the FDP headquarters. He adds that what the United States wants is "for a few U.S. soldiers to be killed so that the U.S. public opinion will support a military intervention in our country." He states that the immediate objective of the Yankee aggression stems from what is taking place at the U.S. military bases themselves. "Nearly 350 U.S. soldiers, from different forces, have been arrested because they have refused to obey orders to continue waging the psychological war against the Panamanian people." It adds that the soldiers, who have refused to obey these orders, "have been threatened with being sent back to the United States where they will be court-martialed."

The last paragraph in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's "The Griper" column on page 48 states that it has learned that the U.S. military officer who was killed on 16 December was a black lieutenant colonel and that racism may be the reason why his name has not been disclosed.

### Further Comments Cited

*PA2012012189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1208 GMT on 18 December broadcasts the daily "Liberation Trails" talk show "Mouthpiece of the Journalist Union of Panama," hosted by the Union's Secretary General Baltzar Renan Aizpurua and Deputy Secretary General Euclides Fuentes Arroyo and Rigoberto Paredes. The program begins with a reading of Aizpurua's "Political Coliseum" column published in CRITICA on 19 December on the presence of U.S. sharpshooters near the Panama Defense Forces' [FDP] central garrison on the night of 16 December when one U.S. serviceman was shot to death. The article also notes that 350 U.S. soldiers are under arrest at the U.S bases for refusing "orders to continue psychological warfare maneuvers against the Panamanian people."

Afterward, Aizpurua comments that when he wrote the article, he had not learned of the 18 December incident where a U.S. lieutenant shot a Panamanian policeman. He adds that a Pentagon source "admitted that the U.S. lieutenant caused the incident." Returning to the 16 December incident, he adds that the name of the lieutenant colonel killed has not been released. Fuentes breaks in and says: "I do not think there is a lieutenant colonel. I think this is a fabrication."

At 1222 GMT Aizpurua adds that on that night, General Maxwell Thurman, U.S. Southern Command chief, and General Marc Cisneros, U.S. Army South commander, had demanded that the FDP chief on duty at the garrison explain what happened and "threatened to invade Panama." Citing FDP Major Ruben Rodriguez of the Joint Commission for the Security and Defense of the Canal, Aizpurua said that "at the time of the incident, all U.S. civilians living in Amador were moved to Fort Clayton." Later on, he adds, the U.S. act of provocation was not fully implemented that night "because of the immediate reaction" by the FDP. "The presence of U.S. sharpshooters in the area led me to think this was a major incident," he comments.

Still citing Maj Rodriguez, Aizpurua notes that a U.S. couple arrested that night in the vicinity of the FDP central garrison was "protected by the FDP. And that is why, U.S. Southern Command Major Mansfield [first name not given—FBIS] congratulated the Panamanian officers. The FDP officers were congratulated for turning over a U.S. couple arrested in the Barraza neighborhood at the time of the incident." Later a report indicated that this officer and his wife were subjected to abusive treatment at the FDP garrison, he commented.

Turning his attention to another subject, at 1229 GMT Aizpurura says that he listened to "famous Radio Impacto this morning, just by coincidence." Aizpurua comments that the station's lies are good for "us." "As General Manuel Antonio Noriega has said: Lies cannot withstand any investigation. The people of Panama know what is happening in our country. However, it did catch my attention that they interviewed an unidentified Quarry Heights officer, who speaks Spanish with an accent. I think he is an intelligence officer there." According to Aizpurua, the interesting thing about this matter is "how easy it is for Radio Impacto to contact Quarry Heights. A Pentagon office, such as the Quarry Heights office, releases statements to the international public on Radio Impacto." Then, at 1231 GMT, he notes: "Radio Impacto is a high-powered radio station at the service of the CIA." That is why he feels, "it is time the Panamanian Government install a shortwave radio station at all costs. It is a strategic need of this country to impart its opinion to the world. That radio station must not only broadcast in Spanish, but also in English and in any other language needed to disseminate Panama's opinion to the world."

On this matter, Rigoberto Paredes stresses: "Messers officials, general chief of government, President Francisco Rodriguez, Government Minister: a state-owned shortwave station is no longer a matter to be taken lightly or something to be considered if it is advisable or not. It is an urgent need." Commenting further on Radio Impacto's broadcasts, he says: "Let them continue telling lies that our blood is flowing. Their listeners living here will say: Those people are not telling the truth."

At 1236 GMT, the talk show members begin a discussion on the topic of disinformation by international news agencies on the situation in Panama. Fuentes accuses international agencies of always including a paragraph on the U.S. indictment against Gen Noriega for drug

trafficking in all the news items about Panama. He says that all dispatches stress that a U.S. serviceman was killed and a U.S. couple was mistreated. He then adds: "What the United States wants is to have a person killed or have a U.S. serviceman or civilian or anybody become a victim so they can relate these incidents to the world: Here you have it. We are the ones who have been attacked. The media which is sending dispatches from here, and I say this with full responsibility, in criminal complicity with the empirialists, there is no other word for it, fails to include in their reports that this is a provocation and that Panama has been constantly denouncing it at home and abroad. We have denounced at international forums and even at the OAS, the provocations by U.S. soldiers; Panama has even shown film about that. That information is not included. The news agencies send the Southern Command versions. You should have seen how willingly EFE carried....[changes thought] I mention EFE because it is a Spanish news agency and it is chiefly aimed at the Latin American market, the Spanish-speaking world. This agency is more poisonous against Panama than the U.S. UPI news agency. You should see, Rigoberto, how eagerly they send full texts of U.S. Southern Command communiques. That is why I say they work for the U.S. Southern Command for free." At this point, Paredes adds: "They get paid to."

Further on Fuentes says: "It is pitiful that these foreign reporters, who are making good money in Panama, live among us, and are so mean they do not report the truth." The discussion then returns to the subject of the need for a state-owned shortwave station.

At 1252 GMT, Paredes urges the government and justice minister to summon foreign reporters to the office. He accuses these reporters of receiving orders from Venezuelan President "Carlos Andres Perez and the gang of Panamanian traitors who are with him Caracas. They get orders from and get paid by the U.S. Department State." He also notes the presence of Venezuelan Venevision and REUTERS reporters at the central garrison on 16 December. Fuentes adds that "the CIA has used some newsmen and fake newsmen to do espionage work and attack the peoples of this continent and the world." The discussion moves onto the topic of Gen Noriega's 15 December speech.

At 1302 GMT, Aizpurua says he does not fully agree with that speech. Referring to the part in that speech where Gen Noriega vows not to destroy the canal, "I have often said that if Panama is attacked, Panamanians have the historic commitment to blow up the canal. And I repeat this: If our people are attacked, this action is logical because we know the 135 major and strategic points in which the Panama Canal can be paralyzed. We have reserved this information as the secret of the Panamanian people to defend that interoceanic passageway built and used for the benefit of mankind. However, if our country is attacked, or if Gen Noriega falls victim to the assassin Bush's murderous bullets, since Bush has ordered covert operations in the so-called Plan 5....[changes thought] Gen Noriega, with all due respect, I tell you from here that Panamanians will not stopped in destroying and annihilating the Panama Canal and U.S. military installations there." Then he adds: "If that canal continues to be motive or source of conflict and the aggression against our people, Panamanians have the historic responsibility to destroy it."

At this point Paredes comments: "I respect your viewpoint, because it is a very human viewpoint. I also understand the general's stance. When he gave his speech, we must realize the head of a government is talking, he is no common citizen. You, I, and Euclides are common citizens. We can do things that not even a head of government can prevent." He concludes saying that Gen Noriega "is talking as a head of government, a serious man. That is what Bush should understand."

At 1319 GMT, Aizpurua concludes the program by stating: "We understand Gen Noriega' stance as a statesman. We understand he is offering an olive branch. However, we also tell our people General Omar Torrjos' words: Panama will never lose the capacity and must never lose the capacity to destroy the Panama Canal."

### 18 Dec Shooting Investigated

*PA2012021689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2340 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] An investigation carried out by TV 2 [Televisora Nacional] reporters in Curundu proves that shooting of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] corporal on 18 December was totally unjustified. It was a criminal and cowardly act. The report that follows proves that the information offered by the U.S. Defense Department and by the Southern Command is totally false, and the victim of the aggression never had an opportunity to address his attacker, who fired from a moving vehicle in a cold-blooded and premeditated manner and then fled.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] This morning TV 2 reporters conducted an investigation in the residential Curundu neighborhood where, on 18 December at noon, there was another armed aggression against Panamanian citizens, on this occasion, against a Panamanian policeman who was patroling the sector. The policeman was wounded by a gunshot, says one eyewitness, engineer Agustin Veces. At the time of the shooting, Veces was with fellow workers at the MIVI [Housing Ministry] warehouses, scarcely a few meters away from the incident.

[Veces] The policeman was standing where I am standing now.

[Reporter] What time was that?

[Veces] That was at approximately 1130. A white Volkswagen minivan was coming from that direction. He extended his arm fired twice. When I heard the shots I was standing over there. I saw the policeman put his right hand on his left forearm, bend over, and run toward that area seeking help. When we saw him we ran down to

help him, but the car that I mentioned earlier continued in the direction of the SACA [former Canal Zone Bus Service depot] shops. He disappeared there and we did not see him again.

The vehicle, I repeat, was a white Volkswagen minivan with a grid for luggage in front. I could not get the license plates number because the incident happened quickly and the driver fled in the direction that I told you. The vehicle had all the signs of being American because the colors of the license plates, white and sky blue, are plates that I always see around here.

[Reporter] What was the wounded policeman's reaction and the reaction of the people who were with you?

[Veces] The policeman was wounded and he sought aid. He thought we had a telephone up here. We all went downstairs and walked toward that house where we borrowed the telephone. We called the FDP and a patrol car was sent to pick up the policeman and take him to the hospital.

[Reporter] With a gunshot wound in one of his arms, policeman 10304, Cesar Tejada, who is in one of the rooms at the FDP military ward, explained the incident, showing his wounds which were caused by several shots fired by a U.S. citizen who immediately fled after perpetrating this action which has gone unpunished.

[Tejada] I was approached by a white car, a white van-type car, a type of Volkswagen. It was coming from the residential area and I was standing in front of the MIVI on guard duty. When I looked up [words indistinct] it caught my attention because I was surprised to see that he never stopped. He fired twice, and one of the shots hit me in my left arm as you can see. He never stopped, he drove right by toward the SACA depot, somewhere in that area. Some people who were there, people at the MIVI helped me. They let me use a telephone to report the case.

[Reporter] Did you identify the individual? What did he look like? Did you see him?

[Tejada] I could see he was an American.

[Reporter] One or two?

[Tejada] One. One alone.

### Battalion 2000, Dignity Battalions Clash

*PA2012041689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0354 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] A young man whose surname is Castillo and who is a member of the Battalion 2000 died as a result of a confrontation between members of the Dignity Battalion and the Battalion 2000. This information was confirmed by priests. For obvious reasons we will not mention names or places, but priests have confirmed that Castillo, unfortunately, we do not have his full name, died as a result of a confrontation between members of the Dignity Battalion and Battalion 2000. His funeral was held at a Catholic Church in a popular neighborhood on 19 December. The source asked to remain unidentified.

We hereby report that confusion within the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and Noriega's servants are beginning; in other words, the Indignity [as heard] Battalions are beginning to fight against the FDP. Attention Panamanian soldiers who are tuned in to Radio Impacto, we know many of you listen to this station, spread the word among your comrades at arms, if you do not get smart and if you do not pay attention, you may find yourself like Castillo who was killed by a member of the Dignity Battalion. Spread the word officers, spread the word, otherwise you will find yourself in the same situation.

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Aeroflot

*PA1912202989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Aeroflot Regional Director Valeriy Smirnov and Panamanian Lieutenant Colonel Pascual Gonzalez, Civil Aeronautics Board director, signed a memorandum of understanding today. The objective of the memorandum is motivated by the desire to expand the aeronautics and trade relations between the two nations. Another goal of the memorandum is to regularize the irregular existing services based on the principle of equality of opportunity.

The agreement grants the Panamanian and the Soviet air companies the right to make noncommercial flights.

### Commercial Attache Comments on Mission in USSR

*PA2012054489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2327 GMT 16 Dec 89*

[Text] Dr. Carlos Jimenez, appointed Panama's trade representative to the Soviet Union recently, explained the scope of his next international mission.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] I think the most important thing to consider is that our economy and trade relations are being diversified. I think this fact and the crisis we have been facing shows that it is impossible to hold commercial and economic relations in whole or in part with only one country. By diversifying our economic and commercial relations, our relations with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries, we can strengthen our economy and make it more independent. I think we are in a position, not only to request trade with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries, but to offer much in exchange for this trade. Panama enjoys a privileged geographical position and an important service, commercial, and banking infrastructure. Such a commercial exchange would be of great benefit for any country. In this case, both sides should profit from this relationship because there is an equitable basis.

[Reporter] What instructions has the executive branch given in connection with this commercial attache post in the Soviet Union?

[Jimenez] It has asked to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries to the best possible level, attaching proper importance to the role played by both the state and private enterprise.

[Reporter] Considering the talks held, what is the most important project in Panama that the Soviet Union would support?

[Jimenez] The commercial delegation, headed by Ministers Gustavo Gonzalez and Elmo Martinez Blanco, has worked on several projects, some of which are the remodeling or reconstruction of the Panama railroad, the completion of several electrical interconnector projects, the expansion of Panamanian fishing ports, which could serve the Soviet Pacific fleet ships, and other projects related to housing, health, and commerce in general. [end recording]

## Noriega Meets Colon 'Proliberation' Students

*PA2012052289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Government Head General Manuel Antonio Noriega met this morning with the proliberation student movement. This took place at the Jose Guardia Vega School auditorium, with all the federal delegations and graduating associations from the Colon Province taking part. At the head table, along with the head of government, was student Nicolas Leal of the Jose Guardia Vega School, Lieutenant Colonel Anibal Maylin, student leader Jose Rodriguez, Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal, Colonel Teodoro Alexander, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Delgado, and Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon.

During the event, student Nicolas Leal spoke, and Alonso Marcos swore allegiance to the flag. Following a speech, student leader Jose Rodriguez along with Nicolas Leal, handed Gen Noriega a plaque. Noriega thanked the students for all the support received from the Colon student body. The meeting ended with the national anthem.

Afterward, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, along with the Colon students, walked From the Jose Guardia Vega School to the Home of the Hunters [Hogar de los Cazadores] installations. After the walk, the refurbished facade of the 2d Military Zone headquarters was inaugurated. A couple of young girls wearing the typical national dress handed Noriega rosary beads, while young Nelson Gomez, representing the children of Colon, addressed the commander, wishing him success in the nationalistic struggle. The keynote speaker was Professor Eusebio Salazar who remembered events dealing with loyalty day, while extolling the commander's work at the front of the nationalist struggles and his large responsibility of continuing in this generational ascension.

Then, the commander unveiled a plaque accompanied by two young girls wearing the national dress. The ribbon was cut to inaugurate the 2d Military Zone headquarters' refurbished facade, by Mrs. Nelly de Maylin, president of the Colon Chapter of ASEFUDEP [Panama Defense Forces Wives Association]. The event ended with a party at the 2d Military Zone headquarters' patio.

## Argentina

### Bush Requests Menem Support for Panama Operation

*PY2012123389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1206 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has reported that President George Bush today asked his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem, to support his country's military intervention in Panama. Cavallo said that this request was made during a telephone conversation between the two presidents.

Cavallo made these remarks at Government House and also indicated that the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight have decided to "act jointly" in the face of this dramatic Panamanian crisis.

### Menem, Cavallo 'Very Concerned'

*PY2012131889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1248 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem, who early this morning received a telephone call from his U.S. colleague, George Bush, who explained the U.S. position regarding the armed conflict in Panama, has stated the need "to avoid bloodshed and to seek peaceful solutions."

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo made this report after meeting with Menem at Government House. Cavallo stated that he will meet with the foreign ministers of the so-called Group of Eight to "seek a path to contribute to the peace of that Central American nation."

Cavallo maintained that Argentina will not issue a declaration on the very serious incidents taking place in Panama between the U.S. Armed Forces and the Panama Defense Forces until there is a meeting of Group of Eight representatives and other Latin American foreign ministers. He said that the Argentine Government "is studying the situation based on the information that it has in hand" and that "we are certainly very concerned."

He explained that "for the time being, our decision with the president is not to issue a declaration until there have been talks with the Group of Eight—which is an organization for consultation and political agreement." He stressed that "it must be taken into account that Latin America will have to play a fundamental role in preventing the conflict from escalating and in preventing a greater loss of blood."

The Argentine foreign minister reported that Latin American ambassadors to the OAS are now meeting in Washington and he asked the media at Government House to "understand that he cannot give more details until he has precise information about the conflict."

Finally, when asked about President Menem's reaction to his telephone conversation with Bush, Cavallo said that "he expressed concern and highlighted the need to take every precaution to prevent bloodshed and to seek peaceful solutions in respect for full enforcement of Panama's democratic principles."

### Joint UK-Argentine Communique Released

*PY2012000589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2241 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine and UK delegations that are meeting in Paris today drew up a report that will be submitted to the two governments for their consideration. The report deals with the points that were agreed in the joint declaration issued by the two governments in Madrid on 19 October 1989.

According to a report released by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the Argentine and UK delegations have agreed that the meeting of the working group falls under the sovereignty formula contained in Paragraph 2 of the aforementioned joint declaration.

The working group also reviewed proposals by both sides and agreed on measures on reciprocal information that will be submitted to the two governments for their consideration. These measures are designed to improve relations in the South Atlantic fisheries through scientific research of the fishing resources.

Given the complexity of the topics involved, the two sides agreed that it would be advisable to continue reviewing (?these topics).

A spirit of goodwill prevailed during the meeting and [words indistinct] the French Government for its hospitality.

### Government Takes Control of Labor Confederation

*PY1912003689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (DYN)—Today the government decided to take over the control of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] for 180 days. According to official sources, during this period a committee will be entrusted to implement a normalization process. This committee will be comprised of Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the CGT Azopardo faction; Lorenzo Miguel, leader of the Metal Workers Union and secretary general of the 62 Organizations; Guerino Andreoni, CGT secretary general; and Jose Rodriguez, presidential aide.

The sources stated that the different sectors have committed themselves to achieving the normalization of the CGT within the 180-day period and to participating effectively in the social pact that is being promoted by the government.

### Rodolfo Rossi New Central Bank President

*PY1912172189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1650 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (NA) — This afternoon the liberal-leaning economist Rodolfo Rossi confirmed that he has accepted the post of president of the Central Bank, succeeding Egidio Ianella.

Rossi referred to his acceptance of the post just after 1440, when he left the Economy Ministry after a long meeting with Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez.

### Banks, Exchange Houses Reopen as Scheduled

*PY2012122489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1127 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM)—A "calm atmosphere" reigned today in this capital city [preceding word in English] as the markets reopened after 3 consecutive days of bank and exchange holidays. The open market dollar is costing approximately 1,200 australes to purchase; its sale price is 1,400 australes. There are very few people viewing the quotation boards at the money exchange houses, although there are lines in front of some banks. [passage omitted]

### Economy Minister on Details of Economic Plan

*PY2012012289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2030 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (DYN)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today revealed that it is estimated that the inflation rate for December will reach 50 percent. He also said that the government will summon the labor-management arbitration boards before March if the economic variables that were recently set free—particularly prices—greatly affect salaries.

Gonzalez confirmed that the markets will reopen tomorrow, and he warned that on his first day of work at the head of the Economy Ministry "an increase in some prices has been observed" after the latest economic measures were announced.

"That fact shows that the rules of the game have not been well understood. The government will not allow everything, because it must guarantee the balanced, rational, normal, and free operation of the markets," the minister said.

When asked about the manner in which the government will face this situation, Gonzalez said that the government "does not intend to intervene to regulate, establish, or control prices," but he said that the government "will intervene to make each agent comply with his duty."

Gonzalez said: "If we choose to live in democracy, we must also respect the rights of the rest of the people. I am not speaking of intervening, but of the guarantee that is necessary for the normal operation of the markets."

Regarding the possible dollar exchange rate quotation for tomorrow, after the currency exchange rate has been freed, the economy minister refrained from giving forecasts and just said that the dollar rate "will be decided by the variables."

As for the salary issue, he said that for the time being "we have already agreed to an increase (20,000 australes) that we thought was necessary to compensate for the impact of the latest price increases." He added: "We will be in permanent contact" with the labor representatives to follow up on the evolution of prices.

The new economy minister made these statements—in which he referred to several aspects of the economic plan announced last night—to Radio Continental, Radio Mitre, and the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO.

"The public utility rates will be maintained," he said, adding that the December inflation rate will be about "50 percent," although he trusts that we will attain "zero inflation in the next 60 days."

Regarding salaries, he said that beside the 20,000-austral increase established by the government, "we will talk with the two CGTs [General Confederation of Labor] and the Labor Ministry to protect the workers purchasing power." The minister guaranteed that "salaries will not be an adjustment variable."

During the radio interview, the minister admitted that if it is necessary to apply "corrections" as a result of the sudden liberation of the economic variables, the labor-management arbitration boards will be summoned ahead of schedule to follow up on the price increases not expected by the government.

Problems with telephone communications did not allow the minister to explain in detail the reason that the liberation of salaries were not part of the deregulation of the economy.

He said, however, that according to the newspapers, the labor union leaders in principle "agree" with the measures he announced. He also admitted that "this is a harsh, firm policy."

When asked about the reactions to the economic measures among the economic agents, Gonzalez said: "They had a favorable reaction, but it is important that those reactions be reflected in actions and behavior, because now the economic agents will be largely responsible" for the economic trends.

The minister remarked that "all sectors were expecting the state to stop intervening in their decisions, assets, and investments." He added that "now that there exist the conditions that will allow them to operate independently, they therefore have a great responsibility."

Gonzalez said that the "government is aware" that in the first few days "the markets will be confused," but he predicted that later "prices, demand, and the market will

normalize" without "the prevalence of one over the other, so as to establish a normal market as a result of our policy of liberation."

He said if it is seen that the free market is not working properly and that harmful effects are developing, the government will "gradually" adopt measures "to correct the anomalies."

As for the reorganization of the state, the minister said that "probably on 25 or 26 December" the government will release the new measures to "hasten" the privatization of state companies and the reduction of the state apparatus.

He said that a "compensation fund" will be created by which the surplus of one sector will make up for the deficit of another one. Gonzalez said that nearly all the state companies are managing "to finance themselves," except for the Argentine Railway Company, and he added that "as of next year there will be no more government contributions to the state companies."

The economy minister confirmed that investors will be offered "the voluntary exchange of time promisory notes for foreign debt bonds." He said that this decision favors the government because "it means changing a debt that will be due in 2 years for one that will be due in 10 years."

Regarding an alleged $1.5 billion loan from the U.S. Treasury, Gonzalez said "it is being negotiated, but it has not yet been granted."

He said that there was a good chance that the loan would be approved, as evidenced by the fact that the IMF and the World Bank representatives he met yesterday had expressed "support for the economic plan" and "only objected to some aspects of the state companies policy."

Gonzalez said that the tax reform draft bill being studied in Congress will not be modified, and he added: "I have already instructed the congressmen to approve the general value added tax and its complementary penal law."

## USSR's Aganbegyan on Perestroyka, Economy

*PY1912183689 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 14 Dec 89 pp 22, 23, 57*

["Highlights" of "exclusive" interview with Soviet Academician Abel Aganbegyan by journalists Enrique Alonso, Pablo Kandel, Daniel Muchinik, and Julio Sevares at the CLARIN offices in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] Economist Abel Aganbegyan, one of the fathers of "perestroyka," or the Soviet state reorganization, is in Argentina carrying out intense academic activities. In this interview he addresses all subjects pertaining to "perestroyka." He also gives personal opinions on other subjects that deserve publication. For example, when asked about his close association with Mikhail Gorbachev, Aganbegyan gave a surprising answer: "Gorbachev is a man who listens very little to economic advisers, and it would be convenient if he paid them a little more attention." Regarding the possible unity of the two Germanies, and contrary to the public's view that the USSR would be the first country to oppose this unity, Aganbegyan said that "it is a German problem." A unified Germany "could perhaps harm the interests of the West, but it would not affect the USSR." He said that the USSR needs West German technology—which is better than that of Japan—for its development.

[Reporter] Since you are one of the main players in perestroyka, we would like to hear your own version of this process; we have already heard the opinions of skeptical and impartial sources.

[Aganbegyan] Perestroyka is the transformation of the entire Soviet society. It is a vast process; as such, it has been marked by contradictions. It is doing well in the areas of foreign affairs, "glasnost" (unrestricted information), and social democracy. It is also doing well in the difficult but positive area of political reform, in which the people's rights have been expanded.

Perestroyka, however, is not doing well in the economic field. We should consider different sides of the question. Housing construction is not going badly, average life expectancy has increased over the past 2 years because of improvements in the health sector, education is being reformed, and productivity has increased. The process of technological renewal, however, is moving slowly, because only 3 percent was renewed in 1985 and 10 percent in 1988.

Perestroyka has done poorly in terms of money circulation, the budget deficit, and the local consumers market, where there is massive liquidity. The money has been drained and it has thus lost its purchasing power, causing inflation and generating social tension. This has produced dissatisfaction among the people.

[Reporter] Inflation and unemployment had been considered nonexistent within the Soviet economy. Does the fact that they have been recognized mean that the foundations of socialism have been questioned?

[Aganbegyan] Inflation and unemployment, although they did exist, were not reflected by our statistical figures, which unfortunately failed to faithfully reflect several processes. Inflation is now higher than in the past. We currently estimate annual inflation at 10 percent, while in the past it used to reach 4 and 5 percent. This inflation is not only reflected in price increases, since the Soviet state controls prices, but also in the excess money and the goods that cannot be found in the markets. Unemployment is not a massive problem in our country and our employment rate is high because we include in our statistics students who receive a payment to study. Socialism does not imply an absence of inflation, because any market is subject to inflation to some

extent, and it does not imply an absence of unemployment. Structural changes always occur, and there are always people who pass from one sector to another and who do not work temporarily.

[Reporter] In capitalist countries, the establishment of a market economy is the result of a historical process. In the USSR, how can you pass from a centralized economic system to one that will allow an increase in consumption and accumulation at its most complex?

[Aganbegyan] We have yet not gone through that process and for the time being it is difficult to say what will happen. To pass from a centralized distribution system to a market system we need three conditions: 1) We need an orderly monetary base to avoid an excess of money. 2) We need well-founded prices, and we therefore need price reform because we want our prices to come close to international or market prices. The state must only regulate the prices of material goods, such as oil. 3) We need to organize the market structure to allow cooperative, private, and leased businesses—in a word, competition. We want to pass to a developed market, not only for articles, but also for money, investments, and notes. We are preparing a law on shares, and we will create a broad capital market and a market of convertible currencies.

[Reporter] Will you take a monetary path to implement the economic reform?

[Aganbegyan] Not only that; we will also include credits, the state budget and utility rate policy, and the whole system of administrative law.

[Reporter] Could we say that emphasis has been placed on the monetary policy rather than on the economic reform?

[Aganbegyan] I do not understand the question, because the economy has several structural phases—including the monetary phase—and because we do not regard the monetary policy as something apart from the financial, social, or structural policy.

[Reporter] In the Soviet economy, there is considerable liquidity while goods are in short supply. The possibility of selling state-owned property to reduce the liquidity, the possibility of borrowing money to import goods, and even the possibility of implementing a rationing policy have been considered. This problem has become increasingly serious. What are the specific immediate steps that will be taken to solve it?

[Aganbegyan] In the next few days the government will propose new measures to the Congress of Deputies. The first thing that must be done is to refrain from wage increases, which have gotten out of control; the Supreme Soviet has already approved a law that restricts wage increases in companies. The second thing is that it has been decided to increase drastically the production of mass consumer goods. We have obtained a $3 billion credit from the FRG, Italy, and other countries to buy equipment for the food industry and light industry. We are giving priority to the transformation of military industries, which we expect to reduce by 19.2 percent in 2 years. We invested 4 billion rubles to transform military industries into producers of mass consumer goods. We are preparing to increase production of those goods by 10 billion rubles. We also want to increase the interest rate paid on savings accounts, and we want to issue certificates that people can buy and thereby increase the funds available for building houses. We want to sell stock in companies. We are preparing to double imports of consumer goods, but not through new credits, but by reducing other types of imports, such as metal and some kinds of equipment.

[Reporter] You said you came to Argentina to seek new experiences. What experiences?

[Aganbegyan] You know that the first man who climbed Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, was asked why he climbed it. He answered with a famous phrase: "Because it's there." Well, since Argentina exists and the country and its economy are interesting—and since I as an economist was given the opportunity to visit it—I consider it interesting and important to learn more. From an economist's point of view, Argentina is very interesting, since the Keynes theory was applied here for some time, after which the Chicago School theory prevailed. The results of both theories can easily be seen.

[Reporter] What are the possible economic repercussions of frictions within the Baltic countries, the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and other Soviet regions?

[Aganbegyan] We used to have an old model of order and command, when everything was decided in a centralized government. This had a negative effect and became critical in the republics. That is why the model of autonomous confederated republics was adopted, and broad rights were given to regions within Russia and the Ukraine.

I support this model in all its forms. The Baltic Republics were the first ones to make concrete proposals to attain this autonomy, and they, together with Belorussia, will also be the first ones to adopt a different economic system as of 1 January 1990. Other republics are preparing for this, taking their own characteristics into account, and they will adopt the new economic system on 1 January 1991. The main request of these republics is that the USSR guarantee them the supply of gas, electricity, metals, and other basic products. The USSR has guaranteed this, and, in exchange, the republics will give the USSR consumer goods, meat, and machinery they produce.

[Reporter] Soviet economists held a seminar in Buenos Aires last year. They arrived at the conclusion that the economic reforms are not enough if they do not guarantee an improvement in the administrative mechanisms. Now the government departments do not obey the ministries, company managers do not obey the departments, and the workers do not obey the company

managers. The economists think that if the administrative anarchy is not solved, the economic reforms will be senseless.

[Aganbegyan] The problem is real and, in a democratic transition, different people naturally resort to such alternatives. Along with the flood there is much foam. These facts are true to a large extent. Of course order is needed, and that order must be brought out of the chaos. If a person does not work well, he must earn little or simply be dismissed. If a manager does not do his job, he must be removed. We are gradually moving that way—perhaps not too firmly because to allow democracy and "glasnost" to work, one must be soft for some time.

[Reporter] How can these objectives be met, in light of the poor quality of Soviet products and the drop of productivity in the USSR?

[Aganbegyan] It is a consequence of the incorrect economic system that we applied for many years. Our economy was and will continue to be poor as long as it is affected by factors that are foreign to the market. Under these conditions we cannot improve quality, because no one buys if things are not sold. Consumers have no options. That is why we now want to move to another system, to the market economy, where production works according to the consumers' demands. If consumers do not like something being produced, it is simply not bought.

[Reporter] How long will these changes take?

[Aganbegyan] Not everything is possible. One cannot progress too quickly and be in the vanguard of all kinds of production. We are trying to attain an open economic system, to join the international market, and to apply the division of labor.

[Reporter] What possibilities are there for the USSR to join the GATT and the IMF?

[Aganbegyan] These are two different subjects. We wanted to join the GATT, at least as observers, but the United States has opposed this. We have made some progress since the Gorbachev-Bush talks in Malta, and we are now preparing to comply with some of the GATT conditions. However, one-third of the GATT member countries do not meet the conditions required, and the United States notes the need for compliance only in the case of the USSR. Now, there is divided opinion in the USSR regarding the IMF and World Bank. Some people think we should join them and others do not. I favor joining them. Those who oppose that position say that we must contribute $2.5 billion, and no one knows what benefits it could bring us. This is a difficult subject in times of foreign currency shortage. However, despite the fact that we cannot immediately join these organizations, we should nonetheless increase our cooperation with them.

[Reporter] How can the political developments of Eastern Europe affect CEMA?

[Aganbegyan] CEMA will continue existing because the Eastern European countries need to sell their products in the USSR in exchange for oil and other Soviet products. In time, the USSR will be able to buy from the West many of the products it is now buying from Eastern Europe. The USSR prefers, however, to continue buying from Eastern European countries for reasons of mutual convenience.

## Menem Congratulates Brazilian President-Elect

*PY2012115589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0110 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—It has been officially reported that Argentine President Carlos Menem today sent a congratulatory message to Fernando Collor de Mello, who has been elected president in the Brazilian general elections. Menem's message reads as follows:

"On behalf of the Argentine people and their government, I wish to extend to you my warmest congratulations on (?your election) as president of the sister-nation of Brazil."

"Allow me to share with you my great satisfaction with witnessing how the Brazilian people, in an exemplary election, have taken an important step toward consolidating their vigorous democracy, which, I am certain, will (?achieve) the development and well-being that your people deserve during your administration."

"I also wish to reassert my firm decision to work together with you to further strengthen the excellent level of relations between our two countries. I am convinced that this is the true will of our peoples' and what is necessary for the great objective of achieving Latin American unity."

"With cordial greetings."

## Duhalde Departs for Colombia To Donate Planes

*PY1912123089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0752 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM) — Vice President Eduardo Duhalde departed early this morning from the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport for Colombia, where he will donate three Pucara airplanes to the Colombian Government to be used [words indistinct].

In remarks to TELAM just before he departed at 0515, Duhalde said that this donation "indicates that we are complying with an obligation" within the framework "of every type of cooperation that we can give to Colombia, the country that is suffering most from the problem of drug trafficking." [passage omitted]

## Brazil

### Collor Interviewed on Campaign, Need for Unity

*PY2012032289 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0204 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Interview with President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello by Alexandre Garcia at Collor's home in Brasilia on 19 December—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] What were the greatest moments of your campaign?

[Collor] We lived through some very good moments and some very difficult ones. The most difficult moments were those in which we experienced our opponents' violence, intransigence, and lack of tolerance. They were always at our rallies—throwing stones, bags and bottles of water, and eggs at us. Those demonstrations of violence made me very unhappy, because they undermined the consolidation of democracy in our country. Those were certainly the most painful moments of the campaign.

The best moments were always those when we met with the people. We clearly saw how the population—especially the poorest people—identified with our candidacy.

[Garcia] As of 15 March you will be president of those who applauded and those who stoned you. What will you do regarding those who stoned you?

[Collor] When the Superior Electoral Court announces the name of the candidate who was elected, I will be president not only of the 35 million Brazilians who voted for me but of 140 million Brazilians. I think Brazil needs, now more than ever, the unity of its people. I think that Brazil now demands a national understanding from its people to promote the resumption of economic growth with social justice, social well-being, and the recovery of the hope that each Brazilian must have in the future of Brazil.

[Garcia] In your first debate with Lula you mentioned the possibility of national unity. Do you maintain such proposal?

[Collor] Without a doubt, more firmly every day. I believe that current Brazilian problems cannot be solved by one president, by one party, by a group of parties, or by a group of people. Our problems are very serious and very profound. We need, therefore, a broad national understanding if we are to solve them. We need to establish a common program, a common guideline so that all of us may participate in this struggle to resume economic recovery and social justice.

[Garcia] If we analyze the elections, in the first round you defeated 21 candidates, and in the second round you defeated one candidate and others who had joined him. Besides the candidates, you also overcame other difficulties. The question is, who did you defeat and who came out victorious in this election?

[Collor] In terms of people, I do not think that there are either conquered or conquerors in this election. I think that all of us must congratulate each other because, without doubt, Brazilian democracy came out victorious in these election.

[Garcia] For example, the church, or a sector of the church, took part in the campaign, and it was defeated in the elections.

[Collor] As a Christian rather than as a candidate, I regret that fact, because, by taking part, this small sector of the church lost its universal characteristic. It lost its reason for being.

[Garcia] Still, will you turn your other cheek?

[Collor] No, I will not. It is not part of my personality. However, I do offer my understanding.

[Garcia] I learned that by mid-1987, the then Governor of Alagoas State, Fernando Collor de Mello, backed Senator Mario Covas' presidential candidacy.

[Collor] That is correct; that is correct. Unfortunately, later Senator Mario Covas decided not to run. He did not accept the support he obtained for his possible presidential candidacy from me and from several other sectors. Therefore, the issue just faded away.

[Garcia] Had Covas agreed to run for the Presidency, would you have campaigned for him?

[Collor] Undoubtedly. Had he decided to run, had he effectively assumed the leadership of that movement at the time, he certainly would have been our candidate.

[Garcia] Did you feel any resentment because Covas decided to support Lula?

[Collor] No, no. I feel no resentment. I have no right to feel any resentment. I have no right to feel resentment when I have been elected president at age 40. I have no resentment toward anything or toward anybody.

[Garcia] When you were about to start the second round of the televised debate and the polls showed that the two candidates were virtually tied, you seemed very tense. But after the debate started, you were completely calm. What is your secret for so much self-control?

[Collor] It is discipline. You learn to discipline yourself. I am a very disciplined person, both emotionally and personally. I learned to be a disciplined person in childhood from my parents, who were always very stern with their children. I also learned to discipline myself by practicing sports. This helped me to acquire complete self-control...

[Garcia, interrupting] Like karate?

[Collor] Undoubtedly by practicing karate, too.

[Garcia] Governor, 10 days before the end of the campaign some had the impression that you were not going to make it. Did you have the same impression?

[Collor] No, I did not.

[Garcia] Some people had that impression.

[Collor] Yes, some people had that impression, but I did not. I always felt I would succeed. I always felt we were going to surprise people and win, as has indeed happened. I always had a lot of faith; I always had a lot of confidence because of our projects, our proposals. I was particularly convinced of my correct motives for seeking the Presidency, which should not be an end in itself but a tool to achieve the great social changes and the extensive reform programs we will be implementing as of March 1990.

You can be certain of one thing: I will never disappoint you. I will comply step by step with all the commitments I made. You can be certain that you will have a president who will exercise his mandate with dignity, austerity, authority, and particularly with force. This is the commitment I made to 140 million Brazilians, and I will keep this promise every day of my 5-year term.

### Lula Concedes Defeat; Proposes Parallel Ministry

*PY1912215089 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Reported by Carlos Gilberto Alves]

[Text] In Sao Paulo, PT [Workers Party] candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva today advocated the creation of a parallel ministry to monitor the Collor administration.

This was his first public appearance since 17 December.

In a news conference, Deputy Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva today admitted Fernando Collor de Mello's victory. Da Silva, however, warned that he will remain on the heels of the next government. He suggested the creation of a parallel ministry to monitor all the actions of the future president of the Republic.

Lula considers it important to maintain the left-wing coalition in Congress. He warned that the proposals for a national understanding are just a strategy to weaken the opposition to the future government.

Lula added that, if he is asked, he will reject meeting with Fernando Collor de Mello.

[Begin Lula recording] To the extent that he takes wise measures, it will not be necessary for us to talk, because we will know what is good and [words indistinct] benefit the workers. [end recording]

In the news conference, Lula said that he still has not assessed the reasons for his defeat.

Concerning his political future, Lula guaranteed that he is only certain about one thing: He will not run for governor of Sao Paulo State next year.

### Deputy Ponte New Civilian Household Minister

*PY2012010589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] President Sarney will appoint Deputy Luis Roberto Ponte, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, as civilian household minister. Ponte will be a link between the outgoing and incoming administrations.

### * Study Shows CUT Stronger Than CGT

*90ET0053A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 8 Nov 89 p 108*

[Text] Since the day they were founded, Brazil's two main labor union federations have used names characterizing them as the only representatives of the national union movement. Last week, however, a survey by Julio Lobos Associated Consultants of Sao Paulo showed that the General Federation of Workers (CGT) is much less general than it claims to be, while the Single Federation of Workers (CUT) is coming to bear a stronger resemblance to its name. In a universe of 157 of the country's 500 largest firms, researchers discovered that the CUT now controls 65.3 percent of the unions representing the workers in that sample, whereas the CGT, which once had two-thirds of the most important unions, is down to 16.3 percent in the sample surveyed. "The most disturbing thing, in the opinion of businessmen, is that this trend will probably continue," says economist Julio Lobos, who was in charge of the survey. According to businessmen, the CUT is far more aggressive and prone to strike than the CGT.

Besides being stronger in the country's big firms, the CUT also wins over the CGT when it comes to the absolute number of member unions. Today it dominates 1,400 unions, compared to the CGT's 1,340. The CGT split into two halves this year—one headed by the current chairman, Rogerio Magri, and the other by veteran Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, or "Joaquinzao"—and has lost a little more vigor as a result of that breakup. According to Julio Lobos' analysis, one reason for the CUT's growth was the intense pressure applied by the government to break it up. Contrary to what the people behind that operation expected, those efforts served to increase the CUT's muscle due to solidarity on the part of union members irritated by accusations brought against their colleagues. "The accusations united union leaders by arousing their solidarity," says the researcher.

The worst—The survey also shows that the CUT has progressed furthest within the state sector. There the CUT is eight times the size of the CGT, since it controls 89 percent of the unions representing workers in the firms surveyed. Since the CUT is particularly resistant to

proposals to privatize government-owned firms, the conclusion is that any attempt at privatization is necessarily going to collide more and more with that obstacle. Strengthened by the workers' rights enshrined in the new Constitution, the unions will also carry more weight in the negotiation of future economic plans aimed at chopping off inflation—a priority for any government wanting to straighten out the Brazilian economy.

The survey, which was conducted in September, before there was any talk of Silvio Santos' running for president, also asked businessmen which presidential candidates they preferred. When asked which of the candidates would improve or worsen relations between capital and labor if elected, industrialists were almost unanimous in naming the PT [Workers Party] candidate, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, as the biggest obstacle to peaceful coexistence in that sector. Of the businessmen surveyed, 83.5 percent said that those relations would worsen if Lula entered Planalto Palace. The runner-up in the rejection sweepstakes was Leonel Brizola of the PDT [Democratic Workers Party], followed by Fernando Collor de Mello. The list of candidates who, if elected, might improve labor relations was headed by Senator Mario Covas of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], who was mentioned by 22.7 percent, followed by Fernando Collor de Mello, who 13.5 percent of the industrialists felt would facilitate understanding in that area.

## * Petrobras Profits Total $228 Million

*90ET0053C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Nov 89 p 21*

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] had a net profit of 1.095 billion new cruzados ($228 million) for the first 9 months of 1989. That is 21.6 percent below the same period the year before. In yesterday's announcement of the results for the period from January through September of 1989, the government-owned firm's management pointed out that the figure being reported was only a book profit, since it included loans of $542 million owed to the firm by the National Petroleum Council (CNP) but not paid. But the firm blamed not only the CNP but chiefly lagging price increases on petroleum products for the financial crisis which it says it has been experiencing since the start of this year but which does not show up clearly in its operating statements.

Petrobras says that it will not pay its stockholders dividends until April 1990 and that they will be based on the financial results as of 31 December. According to Petrobras' financial superintendent, Nelson Lacerda, the operating statements reflect the situation of sacrifice and difficulties experienced by the company as a result of failure to keep petroleum prices in line with the country's inflationary process, the result being the decline in book profits throughout 1989.

For the first half of 1989, the operating statements showed a profit of $369 million. Lacerda also announced that the profit earned in September was less than the government-owned firm's balance in customer receivables (estimated at $492 million).

### Debt up

From January through September of 1989, the official cumulative rate of inflation was already up to 524 percent, whereas fuel price increases through October amounted to 403.9 percent. Petrobras' gross billing for the period totaled 37.072 billion new cruzados, while its net billing came to 31.991 billion new cruzados. During the same period, the company's indebtedness rose to $2.99 billion, of which $2.13 billion was in short-term debt owed to foreign and domestic creditors.

Owing to its financial difficulties, the firm has reduced its investments in petroleum production and exploration. Those investments totaled 5.79 billion new cruzados ($1.61 million) through September.

## * USSR Seeks To Expand Trade Relations

*90ET0053D Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 89 p 28*

[Article by Isabel Dias de Aguiar]

[Text] The Soviet Union wants to expand bilateral trade with Brazil. For each dollar received from Brazilian firms in payment of its exports of capital goods, production goods, fertilizers, and chemical raw materials, the USSR returns $9 through its imports of coffee, sugar, cocoa, soybeans, steel, minerals, footwear, and textiles. It also wants to absorb some of the skill demonstrated by Brazilian businessmen in winning foreign markets. Brazil's prowess in increasing its foreign sales over the past decade has caught the attention of representatives of Soviet state-owned enterprises.

Those were some of the reasons that brought Vladimir Marinin, director general of Stankoimport, to Brazil. Stankoimport is the Soviet enterprise responsible for exporting all excess machinery production from the republics making up the USSR. Marinin explained that as a result of administrative decentralization of the hundreds of firms in those republics, their managers now want to win the world and sell their products in a competitive atmosphere. Therefore, one of his chief tasks in Brazil is to sign agreements with firms that train executives so they can provide courses in foreign trade in his country.

Marinin opened the Ninth Soviet Union Machinery Fair yesterday evening. Until the 25th of this month, Brazilian businessmen will have the chance to get a firsthand look at such medium-sized machines as grinders, lathes, and boring and milling machines. Marcio Miranda, head of Saena, the firm that represents Stankoimport in Brazil, says that the advantage offered by these machines is their cost, which he says is substantially below that of similar machines produced in Western countries.

Fifteen machines have been set up in the Stankoimport Exhibit Hall and will remain in operation there throughout the fair. Technicians from firms in Moscow, Saratov, and Kaunas (a Lithuanian city) will show Brazilian businessmen how to make them operate efficiently.

## Chile

### Aylwin Talks With Caceres; To Meet Pinochet

*PY1912144589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet and President-elect Patricio Aylwin will meet at La Moneda Palace within the next few days. The meeting was arranged by Aylwin and Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who extended the invitation to Aylwin at his house in Nunoa.

Caceres, who met with the president-elect for 45 minutes, said that Aylwin received a personal note from General Pinochet and accepted the invitation for the meeting. No date has yet been set for the discourse. The minister and the president-elect also analyzed other aspects of the transfer of power.

[Caceres] "We analyzed some specific aspects of the mechanism for the transfer of power and other issues. In general terms, we addressed the issues that are normally addressed after the election of a new president. All the necessary contacts must now be made in order to hold general and sectorial talks in the period leading up to the inauguration on 11 March 1990."

Caceres said that the inauguration should be held on 11 March 1990 in keeping with congressional regulations and that the issue is being analyzed by the constitutional tribunal.

In response to another question, Caceres said that the government has sought to implement the transition toward democracy in compliance with the Constitution and in an atmosphere of respect for the people and institutions, social peace, and tranquillity.

Caceres said that officials who will coordinate the transfer of power will probably be named soon. "Representatives who will deal mainly with political and economic issues will very likely be named. All of this, however, will depend on the meeting between President Pinochet and President-elect Patricio Aylwin."

The minister said that the issue of the designated senators was not mentioned during his conversation with Aylwin. Caceres also noted that the analysis of pending draft laws will continue, thus consolidating Chilean democracy and the modernization process. The minister said that it will be advantageous to analyze the draft laws with other political sectors.

Aylwin said that his meeting with Pinochet can be positive because it can help to avoid difficulties, to reach a consensus for the transfer of power, and to promote an atmosphere of reciprocal understanding.

Aylwin made this statement after meeting with Interior Minister Caceres, who gave him a personal letter from President Pinochet in which the chief of state extended the invitation to the president-elect. Patricio Aylwin said that he told Caceres that it would be inappropriate for the current government to continue to pass laws:

"I reiterated to him my opinion that even though I am not ignoring the current government's legislative powers, I believe that—taking into account the clear results of the elections—it would be neither equitable nor prudent, much less democratic, to exercise such powers without taking into account the opinion of those who represent the majority in Chile."

Aylwin said that he will identify some of his government officials in the first half of January 1990 and expressed his hopes that everyone invited to his inauguration will attend the ceremony.

According to his closest assistants, Aylwin will return to Santiago after a few days of rest and meditation he will enjoy in an unspecified place in Chile; he left for this break a few hours ago.

### Meeting Set for 21 Dec

*PY1912234089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] President-elect Patricio Aylwin will meet with President Pinochet at La Moneda Palace on Thursday.

It has been reported that the meeting is scheduled to be held probably at 1700. Pinochet will be accompanied by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres and Aylwin by Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] spokesman Enrique Silva Cimma.

The Cabinet chief has reported the date and the time of the meeting to CPPD leaders. It has been also said that Aylwin and Pinochet will hold a private meeting at some time. [passage omitted]

### Merino Says Government To Continue Legislating

*PY2012030689 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Report by Fidel Oyarzo]

[Excerpt] Responding to a call made by President-elect Patricio Aylwin, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that the government junta will continue legislating for the good of Chile.

At the end of today's session, the Navy commander in chief was asked about various current issues.

Asked about the elections, Adm Merino replied: They are over and the one who received the most votes won, as always happens.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Admiral, what is your opinion about the fact that no person from the extreme left was elected in the past elections [words indistinct]?

[Merino] They were not elected because the country does not want anything to do with the extreme left (?as we have repeatedly) insisted.

[Reporter] Admiral, on 15 December, shortly after he was elected, President-elect Aylwin asked the government junta not to continue legislating. What is your opinion of the call made by Mr Patricio Aylwin?

[Merino] That is his opinion. He is free to make such a call. However, as established by the Constitution and the laws, we must discharge our duty of legislating on everything that the executive branch proposes or on any bill proposed by the government junta itself. We must legislate on all this until the date established by the Constitution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Pinochet Designates Two New Senators 19 Dec

*PY1912174789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Colonel Cristian Labbe has reported that President Augusto Pinochet today designated former Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez Fernandez and William Thayer Arteaga, a former state-run university rector, as senators.

Labbe added that the designations were ordered through Decrees 1,924 and 1,925—which the chief of state signed this morning.

### Security Council Designates Senators

*PY1912183189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] The National Security Council today unanimously designated the following people as senators: Lieutenant Santiago Sinclair Oyaneder, a government junta member; Vice Admiral Ronald McIntyre Mendoza, retired, a former Navy commander in chief; Lieutenant General Cesar Ruiz, retired, a former Air Force commander in chief; and General Vicente Huerte Celis, retired, a former Carabineros director.

This information was released by General Fernando Rojas, the National Security Council secretary, after a second council session at La Moneda Palace today.

Gen Rojas explained that the list of senators was not released after the first council session this morning because it was erroneously believed that it must be submitted to the constitutional tribunal. [passage omitted]

### Cardoen Company To Manufacture Helicopters

*PY2012124789 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The Cardoen company is now manufacturing helicopters that will serve a variety of tasks, ranging from air fumigation and inspection of high-voltage power lines to combat maneuvers. Piloting a prototype, arms impresario Carlos Cardoen has reported that he expects to produce 100 helicopters per year to be marketed in Latin American, Asian, and Middle Eastern countries.

The Cardoen-made helicopter has a maximum speed of 208 km per hour and a 4-hour flight range. After this helicopter is certified, it will be marketed for a unit price of about $2 million. This price is reportedly at least half the cost of an airplane with similar characteristics.

The project to produce the prototype, which took 4 years and cost about $4 million, was managed by Aeronautics Engineer Rene Gonzalez.

Cardoen pointed out that this model could be manufactured jointly with the National Aeronautical Enterprise, ENAER. He said that there is no competition between the two manufacturers. The Cardoen company president also pointed out that he does not believe that he will have any problems in manufacturing and exporting arms under the democratic coalition government.

## Colombia

### Liberal Party Leadership Restructured

*PA1912153289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Bogota—Former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala has retaken the national leadership of the Liberal Party. His return ends the crisis caused by the failure of the Constitutional reform in Congress that led him to present his resignation. The former president is going to officially designate Fernando Jordan Flores as new secretary general of the party in the next few hours. Jordan Flores will replace Saulo Arboleda Gomez, who resigned to run as a candidate for the Chamber of Representatives. In addition, the sole head of the Liberal Party will confirm the designation of Carlos Espinosa Facio Lince as new assistant director of the party. He replaces Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Chamber of Representatives, who resigned the post.

### Further on Antidrug Actions, Rodriguez Death

#### Mastermind of Galan Assassination

*PA2012030989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0011 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] General Alfredo Maza Marquez, Administrative Department of Security [DAS] director, today held a news conference to confirm that Gonzalo Rodriguez

Gacha masterminded the assassination of Senator and presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan.

Maza Marquez asserted that the people captured are responsible for Galan's death and the names of those who plotted and executed it have been confirmed.

[Begin recording] [Maza] Rodriguez Gacha, alias "El Mexicano," played a leading role in this assassination. The Medellin Cartel apparently assigned this mission to him. His thugs then proceeded to eliminate Galan. The riddle of this death has already been solved. Several groups, acting independently but with a single objective—to kill the candidate—participated in the action.

[Reporter] Arrocha, who was presented by the 3d Infantry Brigade to us, and (?Juvis Hasbon), held by DAS, were really involved in this matter?

[Maza] Yes. The technical evidence and witnesses have confirmed it. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

### Four Bodyguards Captured

*PA2012031989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Bogota, 19 Dec (AFP)—The national police reported here today that 4 bodyguards of dead drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha were captured today.

Raul Cogollo, Guillermo Leon Hurtado, Humberto Castano, and Jose Valencia were caught and arrested by a patrol of the elite police near the town of San Juan Nepomuceno, 200 km southeast of Cartagena, when they were trying to evade the authorities.

None of four bodyguards, who were caught on a highway in the interior of the country, resisted arrest. They surrendered to the patrol who took them to Cartagena, 1,000 km north of Bogota, where they were questioned.

### Gangs Clash in Bogota Jail

*PA1912221289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1756 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Five inmates were killed and one was injured in fighting reported at Bogota's district jail. According to the authorities, the gangs of late drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and drug trafficker Victor Carranza clashed. The incident was reported at 0745 this morning in the jail's nineth yard. The names of those killed are: Pablo Rodriguez, John Rojas, Jose Camacho, Luis Bustos, and Miguel Maecha. The injured inmate, Luis Moreno, was taken to the (Ortua) Hospital.

### Military Judge Shot in Medellin 19 Dec

*PA2012033889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0015 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Hitmen wounded a penal military judge in Medellin today.

The irony of this story is that the judge's last day at work was supposed to be yesterday. His family was very pleased about this.

Yesterday, Daniel Roberto Novoa Leal signed his retirement papers as military penal judge 92. Shortly after 0800 today, after leaving his home in Robledo neighborhood, two men aboard a motorcycle attacked him. The former official, 41, never lost consciousness. From the site of the attack, he was taken to a Medellin clinic. He had been wounded in his head and in one shoulder.

Novoa, born in Bogota, had worked as an Army judge, lawyer of the Prosecutor General's office, coordinator of the judicial police in Barranquilla, and, for the past 2 and ½ years, military penal judge 92 of the metropolitan police. He was in charge of the internal investigations of this institution.

Novoa's condition has been diagnosed as serious.

### Government Receives Argentine Pucara Planes

*PA2012050489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0012 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] The Pucara airplanes that Argentina donated to Colombia to combat drug trafficking arrived in the country today.

The Pucara, for example, can fly to Barranquilla, support a military operation, attack a target for 5 minutes, and fly back to Bogota, all in 1 hour flat. This aircraft, designed in Argentina, can land almost anywhere and carry 1,500 kg of bombs and rockets.

[Begin Colombian Air Force Lieutenant Colonel German Paez recording] Because of its high fuselage, the plane can land on unprepared ground, such as earth, grass, and highways. It can take off in a very short distance, approximately 300 meters. [end recording]

During the ceremony to deliver the Pucara aircraft, Argentine Vice President Eduardo Duhalde called on the industrialized nations to control the hot U.S. money that they keep in their bank vaults.

President Barco agreed with Duhalde in that a more efficient control of the chemicals exported to Colombia to process cocaine is necessary and that more severe measures should be applied to consumers.

The Pucara aircraft were immediately readied for action against rebels or drug traffickers.

## Peru

### President Garcia Returns From Andean Pact Summit

*PY1912205189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] During the closing ceremony of the Andean Pact summit, President Alan Garcia emphasized the decision to strengthen the economic integration of the subregion.

The Peruvian president returned from Ecuador last night. [passage omitted]

### Italian Government Grants $340 Million Credit

*PY1912153189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Excerpts] The Italian Government has approved a $340 million credit for Peru for the 1989-91 period. This report was confirmed by Minister of the Presidency Rodolfo Beltran Bravo after negotiations with top-level Italian officials during his recent visit to Rome.

[Begin recording] [Beltran] I have just returned from Rome, where I took part in a number of activities related to the Italian technical and economic cooperation program with Peru. The electric train project is included in this program. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Can you tell us about the Italian credit granted to Peru?

[Beltran] Of course. The agreed upon credit is for $340 million. This amount has been confirmed, and it was the main achievement of this meeting. [end recording]

### Army Patrol Kills 34 MRTA Terrorists

*PY1912225189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] A military patrol has killed 34 terrorists. They were part of an MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] column that was patrolling near the town of Villa Rica in Pasco Department.

In the bloody clash, one soldier was killed and two were seriously wounded.

According to initial reports, the military patrol caught the column by surprise. The column was comprised of about 40 terrorists and it was moving toward the jungle town of (Entas).

It was reported that the shoot out began at 0400 and ended after 2000.

Police sources in the city of La Merced have reported that some terrorists were also detained. The sources added that several of the top MRTA leaders operating in the central jungle area are among the detainees. Many weapons and subversive propaganda were also seized.

In April 1989, during another clash in Jauja, the MRTA lost 86 members.